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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

The French Governess; or, the Embroidered Handkerchief: a Romance. By J. Fenimore Cooper. Pp. 293. London, Bentley.

THOUGH the machinery for working this tale is as flimsy as one of the finest pocket-handkerchiefs ever woven and lace-trimmed in France, for a lady to sport when in gossamer ballroom-trim, it rather encumbers the early portion of the narration, and does not do its duty till towards the close. But what is the duty of so very exquisite a fabric? The author, to use a vulgar phrase, blows it as useless in regard to noses, and denounces it as exceedingly foolish to carry about such things merely for show. It is a delicate question to handle; and we leave it to the decision of the sex whose pretty faces would skin if rubbed with nasty coarse cambric more like huckaback than tissue-paper.

But, having thrown the handkerchief, we shall now proceed to the romance wrap up in it; beginning with the very flax from which it was spun, the fibre of the *linum usitatissimum*, which, though grown in *la belle France*, our author assures us was derived from America—"The glorious family (writes the Mouchoir) of contemporaneous plants from which I derive my being grew in a lovely vale of Connecticut, and quite near to the banks of the celebrated river of the same name. This renders us strictly Yankee in our origin, an extraction of which I find all who may enjoy it fond of boasting. It is the only subject of self-felicitation with which I am acquainted that men can indulge in without awakening the envy of their fellow-creatures; from which I infer it is at least innocent, if not commendable."

This is the first, but far from the hardest, hit which Mr. Cooper aims at his countrymen, between whom and himself a certain degree of asperity has been for some time fructifying, and ripens in the volume before us. But to business: the flax grows, and is converted into the handkerchief of matchless beauty by the soft hands of a lovely girl of noble rank, Adrienne de la Rocheaimard, but, reduced by the revolution to poverty, the Duchess d'Angouleme, at the restoration, having settled on her and her grandmother a pension of 200 francs a year, which Mr. C. estimates (p. 33) at 400 dollars (?). Taken to Paris for sale, our particular handkerchief and her eleven relatives in the piece hear something of the glorious days of July, and are hastily stowed away from the mob; and we are told:—

"Our imprisonment lasted until the following December. As our feelings had become excited on the questions of the day, as well as those of other irrational beings around us, we might have passed a most uncomfortable time in the trunk but for one circumstance. So great had been the hurry of our mistress in thus shutting us up, that we had been crammed in in a way to leave it impossible to say which was the *côté droit*, and which the *côté gauche*. Thus completely deranged as parties, we took to discussing philosophical matters in general—an occupation well adapted to a situation that required so great an exercise of discretion. One day, when we least expected so great a change,

our mistress came in person, searched several chests, trunks, and drawers, and finally discovered us where she had laid us with her own hands near four months before. It seems that in her hurry and fright she had actually forgotten in what nook we had been concealed. We were smothered with care, our political order re-established, and then we were taken below and restored to the dignity of the select circle in the drawer already mentioned. This was like removing to a fashionable square, or living in a *beau quartier* of a capital. It was even better than removing from East Broadway into *bond fide*, real, unequalled, league-long, eighty feet wide, Broadway! We now had an opportunity of learning some of the great events that had recently occurred in France, and which still troubled Europe. The Bourbons were again dethroned, as it was termed, and another Bourbon seated in their place. It would seem *if y a Bourbon et Bourbon*. The result has since shewn that 'what is bred in the bone will break out in the flesh.' Commerce was at a stand-still; our master passed half his time under arms, as a national guard, in order to keep the revolutionists from revolutionising the revolution. The great families had laid aside their liveries, some of them their coaches, most of them their arms. Pocket-handkerchiefs of our calibre would be thought decidedly aristocratic; and aristocracy in Paris, just at that moment, was almost in as bad odour as it is in America, where it ranks as an eighth deadly sin, though no one seems to know precisely what it means. In the latter country an honest development of democracy is certain to be stigmatised as tainted with this crime. No governor would dare to pardon it."

Adrienne's filial piety and her devotedness to comfort the closing days of her grandmother's life are feelingly described; but we shall pass to the time when the handkerchief is bought by a Colonel Silky, an American "de la garde nationale Américaine," who is painted in *distemper* as no flattering type of his fellow-citizens in Paris:—"The porter, the *garçons*, the *bourgeois*, all knew *le Colonel Silky*, who was now a great man, wore moustaches, and went to court—as the court was. In a minute the commissionaire was in the colonel's ante-chamber. This distinguished officer had a method in his madness. He was not accustomed to keeping a body-servant, and, as his aim was to make a fortune, will-ye nill-ye, he managed, even now, in his hours of pride and self-indulgence, to get along without one." He carries his prize to America *on spec*, where the following ensues:—

"The custom-house officers at New York were not men likely to pick out a pocket-handkerchief from a gentleman's—I beg pardon, from a colonel's—wardrobe, and I passed unnoticed among sundry other of my employer's speculations. I call the colonel my employer, though this was not strictly true; for, Heaven be praised! he never did employ me; but ever since my arrival in America my gorge has so risen against the word 'master,' that I cannot make up my mind to write it. I know there is an ingenious substitute, as the following little dialogue will shew; but my early education under the astronomer and the delicate-minded

Adrienne, has rendered me averse to false taste, and I find the substitute as disagreeable as the original. The conversation to which I allude occurred between me and a very respectable-looking shirt, that I happened to be hanging next to on a line, a few days after my arrival; the colonel having judged it prudent to get me washed and properly ironed before he carried me into the 'market.' 'Who is your boss, pocket-handkerchief?' demanded the shirt, a perfect stranger to me, by the way, for I had never seen him before the accidents of the wash-tub brought us in collision; 'who is your boss, pocket-handkerchief, I say?—you are so very fine, I should like to know something of your history.' From all I had heard and read, I was satisfied my neighbour was a Yankee shirt, both from his curiosity and from his abrupt manner of asking questions; still I was at a loss to know the meaning of the word *boss*, my clairvoyance being totally at fault. It belongs to no language known to the savans or academicians. 'I am not certain, sir,' I answered, 'that I understand your meaning. What is a *boss*?' 'Oh, that's only a republican word for master. Now Judge Latitat is *my boss*, and a very good one he is, with the exception of his sitting so late at night at his infernal circuits by the light of miserable tallow-candles. But all the judges are alike for that, keeping a poor shirt up sometimes until midnight, listening to cursed dull lawyers, and prosy, cavilling witnesses.' 'I beg you to recollect, sir, that I am a female pocket-handkerchief, and persons of your sex are bound to use temperate and proper language in the presence of ladies.' 'Yes, I see you are feminine by your ornaments—still, you might tell a fellow who is your boss.' 'I belong, at present, to Colonel Silky, if that is what you mean; but I presume some fair lady will soon do me the honour of transferring me to her own wardrobe. No doubt my future employer—(is not that the word?)—will be one of the most beautiful and distinguished ladies of New York.' 'No question of that, as money makes both beauty and distinction in this part of the world; and it's not a dollar that will buy you. *Colonel Silky*? I don't remember the name—which of our editors is he?' 'I don't think he is an editor at all: at least I never heard he was employed about any publication; and, to own the truth, he does not appear to me to be particularly qualified for such a duty either by native capacity, or its substitute, education.' 'Oh, that makes no great difference: half the *corps* is exactly in the same predicament. I fegs! if we waited for colonels, or editors either, in this country, until we got such as were qualified, we should get no news, and be altogether without politics, and the militia would soon be in an awful state.' 'This is very extraordinary! So you do not wait, but take them as they come? And what state is your militia actually in?' 'Awful! It is what my boss, the judge, sometimes calls a *statu quo*.' 'And the newspapers—and the news—and the politics?' 'Why, they are *not in statu quo*, but in a *semper eadem*. I beg pardon: do you understand Latin?' 'No, sir; ladies do not often study the dead languages.' 'If they did they would soon bring 'em to life! *Semper eadem* is

Latin for worse and worse. The militia is drilling into a *statu quo*, and the press is enlightening mankind with a *semper eadem*."

The first purchaser of the handkerchief in New York is the daughter of a prodigiously wealthy speculator, "at a period of prosperity like that which prevailed in 1832, 3, 4, 5, and 6, when the hereditary dollar was not worth more than twelve-and-a-half cents, as compared with the 'inventoried' dollar." His portrait is thus painted, and gives a striking idea of the class Mr. Cooper means to shew up:—

"Mr. Henry Halfacre was a speculator in town lots—a profession that was just then in high repute in the city of New York. For farms, and all the more vulgar aspects of real estate, he had a sovereign contempt; but offer him a bit of land that could be measured by feet and inches, and he was your man. Mr. Halfacre inherited nothing; but he was a man of what are called energy and enterprise. In other words, he had a spirit for running in debt, and never shrunk from jeopardizing property that in truth belonged to his creditors. The very morning that his eldest child, Eudisia, made her valuable acquisition in my person, Henry Halfacre, Esq., was the owner of several hundred lots on the island of Manhattan; of one hundred and twenty-three in the city of Brooklyn; of nearly as many in Williamsburg; of large, undivided interests in Milwaukee, Chicago, Rock River, Moonville, and other similar places; besides owning a considerable part of a place called Coney Island. In a word, the landed estate of Henry Halfacre, Esq., 'inventoried,' as he expressed it, just two millions six hundred and twelve thousand dollars—a handsome sum, it must be confessed, for a man who, when he began his beneficent and energetic career in this branch of business, was just twenty-three thousand four hundred and seventeen dollars worse than nothing. It is true, that there was some drawback on all this prosperity—Mr. Halfacre's bonds, notes, mortgages, and other liabilities, making a sum total that amounted to the odd six hundred thousand dollars: this still left him, however, a handsome paper-balance of two millions. Notwithstanding the amount of his 'bills payable,' Mr. Halfacre considered himself a very prudent man; first, because he insisted on having no book-debts; second, because he always took another man's paper for a larger amount than he had given of his own, for any specific lot or lots; thirdly, and lastly, because he was careful to 'extend himself' at the risk of other persons. There is no question,—had all his lots been sold as he had inventoried them; had his debts been paid; and had he not spent his money a little faster than it was *bond fide* made,—that Henry Halfacre, Esq., would have been a very rich man. As he managed, however, by means of getting portions of the paper he received discounted, to maintain a fine figure account in the bank, and to pay all current demands, he began to be known as the rich Mr. Halfacre. But one of his children, the fair Eudisia, was out; and as she had some distance to make in the better society of the town, ere she could pass for aristocratic, it was wisely determined that a golden bridge should be thrown across the dividing chasm. A hundred-dollar pocket-handkerchief, it was hoped, would serve for the keystone; and then all the ends of life would be attained. As to a husband, a pretty girl like Eudisia, and the daughter of a man of 'four-figure' lots, might get one any day."

He nevertheless explodes on the very night the handkerchief is paraded at a grand New

York ball, where our author has another satirical rub at his compatriots:—

"I have no intention of describing fashionable society in the great emporium of the western world. Every body understands that it is on the best possible footing,—grace, ease, high-breeding, and common sense being so blended together, that it is exceedingly difficult to analyse them, or indeed to tell which is which. It is this moral fusion that renders the whole perfect, as the harmony of fine colouring throws a glow of glory on the pictures of Claude, or, for that matter, on those of Cole too. Still, as envious and evil-disposed persons have dared to call in question the elegance, and, more especially, the *retenue* of a Manhattanese rout, I feel myself impelled, if not by that high sentiment, patriotism, at least by a feeling of gratitude for the great consideration that is attached to pocket-handkerchiefs, just to declare that it is all scandal. If I have any fault to find with New-York society, it is on account of its formal and almost priggish quiet, the female voice being usually quite lost in it; thus leaving a void in the ear, not to say the heart, that it is painful to endure. Could a few young ladies, too, be persuaded to become a little more prominent, and quit their mothers' apron-strings, it would add vastly to the grouping, and relieve the stiffness of the 'shin-pieces' of formal rows of dark-looking men, and of the flounces of pretty women. * * * It was a queer thing to borrow a pocket-handkerchief, some will think; but I was lent to twenty people that night; and, while in her hands, I overheard the following tattle aside between two young fashionables, who were quite unconscious of the acuteness of the senses of our family:—'This must be a rich old chap, this Halfacre, to be able to give his daughter a hundred-dollar pocket-handkerchief, Tom; one might do well to get introduced.' 'If you'll take my advice, Ned, you'll keep where you are,' was the answer. 'You've been to the surrogate's office, and have seen the will of old Simonds, and know that he has left his daughter seventy-eight thousand dollars; and, after all, this pocket-handkerchief may be only a sign. I always distrust people who throw out such lures.' 'Oh, rely on it, there is no sham here: Charley Pray told me of this girl last week, when no one had ever heard of her pocket-handkerchief.' 'Why don't Charley, then, take her himself? I'm sure, if I had his imperial, I could pick and choose among all the second-class heiresses in town.' 'Ay, there's the rub, Tom; one is obliged in our business to put up with the second class. Why can't we aim higher at once, and get such girls as the Burtons, for instance?' 'The Burtons have, or have had, a mother.' 'And haven't all girls mothers? Whoever heard of a man or woman without a mother?' 'True, physically; but I mean morally. Now this very Eudisia Halfacre has no more a mother, in the last sense, than you have a wet nurse. She has an old woman to help her make a fool of herself; but, in the way of mother, she would be better off with a pair of good India-rubber shoes. A creature that is just to tell a girl not to wet her feet, and when to cloak and uncloak, and to help tear the check-book out of money, is no more of a mother than old Simonds was of a Solomon when he made that will, which every one of us knows by heart quite as well as he knows the constitution.' Here a buzz in the room drew the two young men a little aside, and, for a minute, I heard nothing but indistinct phrases, in which 'removal of deposits,' 'panic,' 'General Jackson,' and 'revolution,' were the only words I could fairly

understand. Presently, however, the young men dropped back into their former position, and the dialogue proceeded. 'There!' exclaimed Ned, in a voice louder than was prudent, 'that is what I call an escape! That cursed handkerchief was very near taking me in! I call it swindling to make such false pretensions.' 'It might be very awkward with one who was not properly on his guard; but with the right sort there is very little danger.' Here the two *élégants* led out a couple of heiresses to dance; and I heard no more of them or of their escapes."

The handkerchief gets into other hands, and Adrienne appears upon the scene; but as we are not going to meddle with the love affairs, we must stick to the American's views of America, which certainly keep C. Dickens more in countenance than we could have expected.

"Here (he says) I may remark, *en passant*, that while nothing is considered so disreputable in America as to be 'aristocratic,' a word of very extensive signification, as it embraces the tastes, the opinions, the habits, the virtues, and sometimes the religion of the offending party; on the other hand, nothing is so certain to attract attention as nobility. How many poor Poles have I seen dragged about and made lions of, merely because they were reputed noble, though the distinction in that country is pretty much the same as that which exists in one portion of this great republic, where one-half the population is white, and the other black; the former making the noble, and the latter the serf. 'What an exceedingly aristocratic pocket-handkerchief Miss Monson has this evening,' observed Mrs. G. to Mr. W., as we passed into Mrs. Leamington's rooms that evening; 'I don't know when I've seen any thing so aristocratic in society.' 'The Monsons are very aristocratic in all things; I understand they dine at six.' 'Yes,' put in Miss F.; 'and use finger-bowls every day.' 'How aristocratic!' 'Very. They even say that, since they have come back from Europe the last time, matters are pushed farther than ever. The ladies insist on kneeling at prayers, instead of inclining, like all the rest of the world.' 'Did one ever hear of anything so aristocratic?' 'They do say, but I will not vouch for its truth, that Mr. and Mrs. Monson insist on all their children calling them *father* and *mother*, instead of *pa* and *ma*.' 'Why, Mr. W., that is downright monarchical; is it not?' 'It is difficult to say what is and what is not monarchical now a-days, though I think one is pretty safe in pronouncing it anti-republican.' 'It is patriarchal, rather,' observed a wit, who belonged to the group."

Of another portion of the web we are told:—
"No. 12 had commenced life a violent republican, and this simply because he heard nothing read but republican newspapers; a sufficiently simple reason, as all know who have heard both sides of any question. Shortly after I was purchased by poor dear Adrienne, a young American traveller had stepped into the *magazin*, and, with the recklessness that distinguishes the expenditures of his countrymen, swept off half a dozen of the family at one purchase. Accident gave him the liberal end of the piece, a circumstance to which he never would have assented had he known the fact, for, being an *attaché* of the legation of his own country, he was *ex-officio* aristocratic. My brother amused me exceedingly with his account of the indignation he felt at finding himself in a very hot-bed of monarchical opinions in the set at the American legation. What rendered these *diplomates* so much the more aristocratic,

was the novelty of the thing, scarcely one of them having been accustomed to society at home. After passing a few months in such company, my brother's boss, who was a mere travelling diplomatist, came home and began to run a brilliant career in the circles of New York, on the faith of a European reputation. Alas! there is in pocket-handkerchief nature a disposition to act by contraries. The 'more you call the more I won't come' principle was active in poor No. 12's mind, and he had not been a month in New York society before he came out an ultra monarchist. New York society has more than one of these sudden political conversions to answer for. It is such a thorough development of the democratic principle, that the faith of few believers is found strong enough to withstand it. Every body knows how much a prospect varies by position. Thus, you shall stand on the aristocratic side of a room filled with company, and every thing will present a vulgar and democratic appearance; or, *vice versa*, you shall occupy a place among the *oi polloi*, and all is aristocratic, exclusive, and offensive. So had it proved with my unfortunate kinsman. All his notions had changed; instead of finding the perfection he had preached and extolled so long, he found nothing to admire, and every thing to condemn. In a word, never was a pocket-handkerchief so miserable, and that, too, on grounds so philosophical and profound, met with on its entrance into active life. I do believe, if my brother could have got back to France, he would have written a book on America, which, while it overlooked many vices and foibles that deserve to be cut up without mercy, would have thrown even De Tocqueville into the shade in the way of political blunders. But I forbear; this latter writer being unanswerable among those neophytes who having never thought of their own system, unless as Englishmen, are overwhelmed with admiration at finding any thing of another character advanced about it. At least such are the sentiments entertained by a very high-priced pocket-handkerchief."

With this we shall finish what we have to say about the *French Governess*, whose handkerchief has furnished the author with the means of giving his countrymen a few hard wipes, while he has offered a volume of pleasing entertainment to the rest of the world.

The Flower-Girl, and other Poems. By Rhoda Maria Willan. Pp. 116. London, Miller.

This little volume soars beyond what is termed the "pretty" in poetry, and contains many passages which are really beautiful—scenes and descriptions that have a green and natural look, and shew that the authoress has drawn more from nature than books. Many morsels form of themselves charming little pictures, so distinctly drawn that they rise up before us whilst we read, and are such as an artist might transfer at once to his canvass; and this we uphold as the grand art and secret of descriptive poetry. As a proof of what we mean, we will, without selection, "begin at the beginning," and quote the very opening of the volume:

"It was a summer eve, and bright
The chequer'd beauty of the light,
Half violet, half golden, beam'd,
And on a landscape sweetly stream'd,
Through bowery foliage fell, and made
Gold lines of net-work on the shade.

Atwath the clear transparent air
Like starry atoms, gleaming fair,
Were insects murmuring in swarms
Of many rings and twinkling forms.
The silken flowers, the lofty trees,
The soft low humming of the bees,

Chanted day's cradle-hymn, and then
The drowsy zephyrs came again,
With footsteps that a silver cast
On every bending spray they pass'd.
A lazy brook pur'd by, just seeming
To be of its own brightness dreaming;
A fountain in its upward play
Like liquid rainbows glanced away.

And further on, a cottage seen
But dimly through the veil of green.
Shrouding its latticed windows, shone
In sweet seclusion, calm and lone:
Jasmin, those peary buds of light,
Gleam'd through the daisy-foilage bright;
Red cup-moss and sweet-smelling thyme
Boasted their birth of sunny clime;
While blossom-odours, lingering frail,
Floated with music on the gale.
From every tree the wild notes rang
Of hidden birds that sat and sang,
Till 'e'en the very leaves seem'd full
Of gladness, strangely beautiful!
A lovely scene for happy eyes
To sport and play amongst themselves.
All combinations of sweet sound
From far and near were floating round:
Insects beneath their heathery sky
Settling with thrill of melody;
The fragments of a vespersong
Now gliding tranquilly along;
Then bleatings of a little lamb,
Wander'd too far from its dam,
And sunset clouds were yet on high,
Sweeping like silken banners by,
Rays that the parting day left there
Still glow'd upon the reddening air."

A great deal of this is true painting after nature. What can be more beautiful or more correct than the

"Gold lines of net-work on the shade?"

A wanderer only into Hyde Park must have observed the truth of this line, have noticed the lines of gold and dark green which chequered the grass beneath the shade under which he walked. As to the two lines descriptive of the "lazy brook," we could almost fancy that they belonged to William Brown's *Britannia's Pastorals*: the thought is not altogether new, but never before did it find such brief and beautiful utterance. The cottage seen

"Dimly through its veil of green,"

is another bit of genuine English scenery, pleasantly calling up Gainsborough, Morland, Nasmyth, or Constable, or the quiet country itself; for while reading it we seem borne away to those sweet little out-of-the-world nooks which they left so cool, and green, and refreshing on the canvass, and which seem fitting homes for the music of bee or bird, or the sounds of a rustic maiden's voice, mingled with

"The bleatings of a little lamb,
Wander'd too far from its dam."

And in such places we could sit through a long summer's day listening, as Miss Willan describes it,

"To the warblings of the birds,
Those little creatures kind,
Muttering the pretty songful words
That not on earth they find."

These last four lines might have been written by one of the quaint old poets of Elizabeth's or Charles's time, or they might be Walton's or Cotton's—the "conceit has so pretty a turn." Then, again, we have the

"Daisies soft and white,
Pearls upon the grasses bright,"

a pure line of pastoral poetry. And now for another picture:

"The twilight fell
On the valley, on the dell.
The wife look'd from her cottage-door
With honeysuckle shadow'd o'er,
And recognised the footstep dear
That only love could know or hear;
The youngest child in eager chase
Had caught his father's first embrace."

This is likewise very natural; and the volume abounds with scores of pictures of equal

and even superior beauty. Still, the book has many faults. What young author's first work was ever free from such? A severe critic might quote many passages, and produce them as condemnatory of the whole work; but this would be unjust criticism, and the same might be done by the works of Keats, Shelley, or Tennyson, and half a dozen others whom we could name, who are nevertheless true and sterling poets. To such reviewers we would award the chaff for their labour: for our part we love to cherish, not to crush; although none ever trampled arrogant and untalented pretence deeper into the mire than we, in our day, have done. Miss Willan, with all her faults, is one of Nature's poets; and she will yet, if she be spared, produce such poems as will be remembered when she is no more. With one other specimen we must conclude; although not one of the best of her shorter poems, there is something about it which has taken our fancy; and we here give

"The Sky is changed.

The sky is changed, the clouds are dark,
The winds and rains are very chill;
Why ventur'dst thou, my little bark,
Upon the stormy waves at will?

My destiny is changed: for, oh!
When winds were soft and skies were fair,
How could my inexperience know
It was not Truth lay smiling there?

The little tree, whose foliage green
Sent smiles from every bending bough,
Was gay, until it felt the keen
Cold blast that laid its beauty low!

And I, until I saw them fade,
Could never think my hopes would die;
Alas! that I was ever made
To feel their sad uncertainty!

I might have watch'd the flitting cloud—
I might have look'd for aught I know
Upon the flower, whose cup was bow'd—
As with some mystery of woe!

I might have listen'd to the lay
Of some unhappy widow'd bird,
And left awhile my childish play
To wonder what it was I heard.

But hope and joy, those radiant things
While yet undim'd by time or shower,
Round early youth will spread their wings
Like sentinels, that watch the flower.

Now destiny is changed: I know
That they were sweet but fleeting dreams,
Their treasures all are gone; and, oh!
How sadly dark the future seems!"

The Parent's Hand-Book; or, Guide to the Choice of Professions, Employments, and Situations, &c. By J. C. Hudson, Esq., author of "Plain Directions for making Wills." 18mo, pp. 245. Longman and Co.

"THE pride and satisfaction with which a father regards his first, and as yet only son, in the days of cockades, white frocks, and naked knees, are exchanged for anxiety and apprehension, when, some eighteen years afterwards, he sees himself surrounded by half a dozen full-grown and fast-growing candidates for frock-coats, Wellington boots, walking canes, watch-guards, and cigars; and no one but a parent who has had experience of both periods can properly appreciate the service done by the friend who, by interest, or judicious and well-timed counsel, helps him off with the most clamorous one of the group."

And this able and sensible little volume is to point out the way. What a happy land do we live in! If we have as many sons as the grand seignior or the patriarchs of old, have we not the church, the law, the army, the navy, medicine, government-offices, banking-houses, newspapers, engineering, building, scholastic teaching, auctioneering, the East Indies, and all branches of trade, to receive, cherish, and

enrich them? One's only regret would be, having so few children to provide for. But still it seems that some trouble must be taken to get the boys, as well as the girls, off your hands; and Mr. Hudson, having formerly taught us how to make our wills, here judiciously advises us how to settle our families before we perform that definitive duty.

The information is of the most useful kind.

We pass by all that relates to the church and army, the preliminary steps to entering either, and the provisions to be made in every branch to which the youth may be appointed. And this brings us to "the sea, the sea, the open sea," alias "the royal navy;" touching which it is written:—

"The profession of a sailor is one to which those who make choice of it seem driven by some unaccountable and irresistible impulse. From the moment that a boy has conceived a passion for the sea, all other schemes of life are distasteful to him. It is not gallantry alone which occasions a bias in favour of a seafaring life, for the same boy who fondly cherishes the wish to be a sailor would loathe the proposal of his being made a marine. It is the sea itself, and for its own sake, the sea *propter se*, which possesses, in the imaginations of a certain description of boys, such a bewitching charm, that neither its terrors, nor its hardships, nor its unfruitfulness, will deter them from the prosecution of their suit. There is no profession whatever which becomes such a passion as that of a sailor. Boys can talk rationally on all other modes of life, and be induced to compare their several advantages; but a boy who has once been seized with the love of going to sea has too much ardour to make any such comparisons. Romantic attachments are not always the surest foundation of happiness in life; and it frequently happens that young men who have become enamoured of a sailor's profession, such as it has appeared to their heated fancies, have been thoroughly dissatisfied with the reality. At the same time it must be confessed that with a vast many the passion endures through life; and that to this peculiarity in the nautical character is owing much of the renown of Great Britain as a maritime power. It is certain, at least, that the emoluments of the profession do not constitute a very powerful attraction. The patronage of the royal navy is lodged solely with the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, and principally with the first lord. Neither commissions nor promotions are to be purchased, as in the army; and the patronage, like that of the civil service, is chiefly bartered for parliamentary support. A young man must enter the service as a midshipman, and after six years' service in this rank, he is made a mate. At this point he undergoes a very rigid examination as to his qualification to be made a lieutenant: the examination embraces, among other things, seamanship, gunnery, and trigonometry. If found qualified, he is 'passed.'"

Of the medical profession it is stated:—

"The disproportion between the income of a surgeon-apothecary in good practice, and the salary paid to his assistant, is very striking, and may appear at first sight to imply great illiberality on the part of the profession. While attorneys and solicitors, who are making two or three thousand pounds a year each, are giving their chief clerks three or four hundred a year, and in some cases allowing them privileges which bring in further emoluments, there is scarcely an instance in the medical profession of an assistant's receiving a salary of 100*l.* a year and his board, and the common case is to commence with a salary of 25*l.* or 30*l.* (in

addition to board and lodging), and to look forward to additions of 10*l.* at a time at distant periods. But the reason for this disproportion will be understood, if we reflect that the services of the assistant are, for the most part, confined to the humble department of compounding the medicine and keeping the books.

Very few practitioners in London keep a visiting-assistant, and those who do never send him to any but the poorest of their patients; so that, in fact, there is but little analogy in this respect between law and physic. A young man, therefore, unless he should have the good fortune to get the very scarce situation of a visiting-assistant, earns very little, and learns less, in the capacity of an assistant, especially in London.

The best chance of seeing practice in this capacity is to engage with a practitioner who holds the appointment of medical attendant to a parish or union, or some public charitable institution: or if a young man should happen to have friends whose influence affords him a prospect of success, it is a good beginning to try for the appointment of surgeon and apothecary to a dispensary. The salary, though small (seldom more than 100*l.* a year), and generally coupled with the condition of doing no private practice (even if that were not impossible by reason of the plentiful occupation of attending to dispensary cases), affords a subsistence for a period in which much valuable knowledge and experience may be acquired; and a man must be below par in the qualifications necessary to success in his profession, if in the circle of his practice as a dispensary apothecary he should fail to acquire such a reputation as will lay the sure foundation of a private practice. To commence at once as a practitioner on his own account immediately after obtaining his diploma, is a bold step in any young man, and one that it would be madness to take, unless he have other resources. Let him take a private house in any situation, however public, fix a lamp of red and green glass over his door, make known to the world, by means of a brass plate, that his name is Mr. So and So, and that he is a surgeon, accoucheur, &c., and fix a bell-handle on each side, writing 'Surgery Bell' under one, and 'Night Bell' under the other, and the probability is, that twelve months will elapse before anybody will put his services in requisition. To begin with what is called an open surgery—that is to say, to open a shop, and to sell drugs and chemicals—affords a better chance, and in any populous neighbourhood brings almost certainly what is called counter-practice. Poor people,—who, as nobody will let them run into debt, pay for their medicine before they take it, and have in consequence the advantage of independence,—are as prone to change as in a condition to indulge the desire. Under this impulse they will be disposed to try a new man, to whom they can obtain access by merely turning the handle of his shop-door, although they would never have ventured to assail the private door, or agitate the 'Surgery Bell.' In this manner a young man, provided he be not too proud to sell salts and castor-oil over his counter, may begin a practice, and trust to professional skill and attention, good moral conduct, and gentlemanly demeanour, to carry him onward. The buying of a practice or a partnership is an uncertain proceeding. The confidence of patients is not to be bought or sold; and in London and other populous places, where there is no lack of choice among medical men, a patient has generally a ready-formed will of his own as to the person whom he prefers to employ, in case of his losing his existing attendant. In a partnership there is some-

thing to hold by until time shall have worked in the purchaser's favour, and he shall have rendered himself acceptable to some portion at least of his partner's connexion; but after purchasing the whole of a practice, the new man will sometimes find that the patients have capriciously decided to transfer their troubles to the care of another. Not to presume, however, too far in the way of giving advice, it is better to state that, if purchasing either a partnership or a practice be determined on, a year and a half's purchase is quite enough to give; and, after the utmost circumspection has been used on every point, the seller ought to be bound to give the buyer an introduction of at least six months."

Then of the law:—

"In this, as in other professions, there are other roads than the straight one to reach the same goal, though they are longer, more thorny, and more uncertain. Every attorney employs as clerks young men who have not been aridled; and it happens occasionally that the ability, good conduct, and assiduity of one of this description of clerks, who has had the good sense to study his profession in preference to smoking and drinking, render it the interest of the master to attach him to his service by a present of his articles, even including the stamp duty, and without prejudice to the salary heretofore paid to him. Such cases may not be frequent, but they do sometimes occur; or a clerk of this description will sometimes save money enough to pay for his articles, in which case he will have no great difficulty in finding a master ready to take him, not only without a premium, but at a salary sufficient to maintain a single man until his five years of clerkship shall have expired. Once admitted, an attorney has a decided advantage over the newly called barrister in finding a market for his services. So many are pressing forward to establish themselves in business on their own account, that there is always a demand for clerks who are members of the profession. At the first start, a salary of 100*l.* or 150*l.* a year is as much as can be got; but except in the case of a decidedly inefficient person, the salary will be raised in a few years to 250*l.* or 300*l.* Beyond this, the prospect consists of being taken into partnership, or forming a separate connexion sufficient to warrant the setting up of an independent establishment. In the mean time, the safest and best thing for the young man to do, is to act on Iago's advice to Signor Rodrigo, and "put money in his purse." Let him save all the money that he possibly can, for various are the ways in which it may serve him. An attorney to be successful should have a command of money. Young men who, or whose friends, are possessed of money, seldom choose the comparatively humble situation of a clerk for their commencement in business after being admitted, but look out for the purchase of a partnership. Whatever amount of share they purchase, whether a half, or a third, or a fourth, or so on, the ordinary price is not less than two, or more than three years' purchase. Suppose, for example, that the firm divides profits to the amount of 6000*l.* per annum, and a young man desires to purchase a sixth part, the price he would have to pay would be between 2000*l.* and 3000*l.*"

The public civil service is miserably paid:—

"No young man can be appointed under sixteen years of age, and it is usual to require the production of a certificate of his baptism. A salary of 80*l.* or 90*l.* per annum, for a young man of sixteen or eighteen years of age, at his very outset in life, and for which no capital is

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necessary to be laid out or sunk in previous education (as in the legal and medical professions), is a temptation to which many a parent yields, who thinks nevertheless that he is consulting the welfare and happiness of his son. But if the future could at all times be placed before his view as vivid in colour and as distinct in outline as the present: if he could be brought to contemplate the situation of his son at the age of twenty-eight, with a salary of only 150*l.*; at the age of thirty-three, with no more than 200*l.*, and with prospects, in all probability, bounded by 300*l.*, he would pause to consider whether some immediate sacrifice on his own part would not be well made to put his son into a line of life where industry and talent may eventually lead to higher rewards."

With this contrast we conclude, and cordially recommend this volume to parents.

King Eric and the Outlaws; or, the Throne, the Church, and the People, in the Thirteenth Century, by Ingemann. Translated from the Danish by Jane Frances Chapman. 3 vols. London, Longman and Co.

THE Roman Catholic church struggle to maintain ascendancy, and the defiance of King Eric to the pope, his bulls, anathemas, and interdicts—like unto a parallel passage in the history of our own country during the reign of the 8th Henry, and very applicable at this hour—form the basis of this novel. The story is somewhat long; but our only regret is that it does not furnish farther insight into the customs of the country, the chivalrous character of which may be gathered from the following short extract:—

"As was customary when the king was present, all the etiquettes of the table were observed according to chivalrous usage. Each knight had his appointed seat, with a small separate trencher and napkin. When the king went to take his place, he was wont to walk round the table of his knights, and at times to cast an observant glance over these small napkins, which were to lie whole and smoothly spread before the seats of the knights, with bread and trenchers, or plates, in a prescribed position. If a rent or a slit was found in the napkin, or if the bread lay reversed, it implied a charge touching the honour of the knight to whom the bread and napkin belonged, and the person thus accused was instantly obliged to leave the table, and remain shut out from the community of knights until he should have justified himself. The day preceding a tournament there were generally a herald and two pursuivants, or under-heralds, present at the king's table and that of his knights, to watch over the observance of these customs. This was the case on this evening. When the king came to the middle of the knights' table, he stopped, on remarking three trenchers upon which the bread lay reversed; he started, and nodded to the herald. 'Who are to sit here?' asked the king with a stern look. 'The high-born knights, Sir Niels Brock and Sir Johan Papæ, my liege,' answered the herald, with lowered staff and a precise deportment. 'Also a certain Ako Krummedigé, whom no one knows. It is he to whom it hath been permitted to wear his helmet here in the hall, and keep silence towards every one, according to his knight's vow at the holy sepulchre.' 'Who is their accuser?' 'An unknown knight, my liege! but he hath placed his covered shield as a pledge in the armoury; he will appear and give his name when it is demanded.' 'Well! be watchful, herald! fulfil thy duty!' so saying, the king went to take his seat. Shortly afterwards Sir Niels and Sir Papæ, with their mysterious

friend, appeared, and were about to take their accustomed places. On seeing the reversed bread, however, they started; the knight of the helmet changed colour and drew back a step; but Brock and Papæ hastily replaced the bread in prescribed form, and took their seats with a look of haughty defiance; at the same moment the herald advanced with a drawn sword in his hand, directly opposite to them on the other side of the table: he slit, with the point of his sword, the three small napkins before them. 'Sir Niels Brock, Sir Johan Papæ, and you who call yourself Sir Ako Krummedigé!' he said, solemnly, 'in the name of Danish chivalry, I cut asunder, as I have done your table napkins, every tie of fellowship between you and knighthood. You are accused of treachery and treason; of a Judas deed and projected regicide: therefore you are ejected from the king's and every honourable knight's society, until you have met your accuser and justified yourselves, if you are able to do so. In consideration of the gravity of the accusation, I demand of ye, besides, your weapons, and announce to you that you are put under knightly arrest."

The spirit of chivalry pervades the three volumes; but is no where more manifested than in the delicacy with which the female characters are wrought out. For this, however, our word must be taken; and also for the following, that to those interested in foreign literature, and more particularly in that of a country of whose light prose productions we know so little, the present work will afford much gratification.

The Highland Note-Book; or, Sketches and Anecdotes. By R. Carruthers. 12mo, pp. 354. Edinburgh, A. and C. Black.

WHAT a remote, pleasing, interesting volume have we here! Sketches which, we are informed, originally graced the *Inverness Courier*, are collected by their writer, and diffidently ushered into the wider world's acquaintance. Inverness may be proud, and no part of Scotland or the British empire ashamed, of them, for they are most agreeable contributions to the lighter literature of the times.

The subjects are extremely various as well as numerous—local descriptions of much force and beauty, legends, recollections of striking historical occurrences, natural curiosities, literary matters, national characteristics, form a *mélange* often affecting, and always picturesque or entertaining. We can hardly open a page without falling upon a quotation which, though it cannot afford any notion of the whole publication, can afford some notion of the talents of the writer; and we shall say "let us see."

"Sir Walter Scott, with his usual worldly wisdom, which, like the expression that Mrs. Hemans assigns to his countenance, was a mixture of homely penetration and benevolence, knew all the shoals and quicksands of a literary life. In particular, he was solicitous and doubtful about young men embarking into authorship as a means of subsistence. He trembled for the fate of poor Hogg, when the latter resolved to cast aside his shepherd's plaid and trust to the pen. He expressed to Crabbe his happiness at finding that none of his own family inherited a predilection for the muses. His advice to Hogg, to give up poetry, was never forgotten or forgiven by the shepherd; nor did Scott readily forgive the manner in which Hogg alluded to the circumstance in the 'Queen's Wake.'

'O, could the bard I loved so long
Reprove my fond aspiring song!

Or could his tongue of candour say,
That I should throw my harp away,
Just when her notes began with skill
To sound beneath the southern hill!
'Twas kindness all; I cannot blame,
For bootless is the minstrel's flame;
But sure a bard might well have known
Another's feelings by his own.'

There was in Sir Walter Scott a portion of that feeling, or caprice, which Voltaire condemned in Congreve—a desire to appear independent of, and rather to undervalue the life of an author, 'with all its perils and its fame.' The following advice is, however, perfectly inimitable for its kindness and good taste:—

"SIR,—Your modest and sensible letter would not have remained so long without an answer, had it not reached me at a time of severe indisposition: even at present I must employ another hand than my own. I have been long under the necessity of laying down a positive and general rule, never to offer an opinion on the manuscript poetry of unknown correspondents. Besides being a most burdensome tax upon my time (for I frequently received two or three large packets in one week), I had generally the very unpleasant task of returning such answers as were disagreeable to my correspondents. In fact, sir, although nothing can be so rare as that high degree of poetical talent which arrests, in a strong degree, the attention of the public, yet nothing is more general among admirers of poetry and men of imagination than the art of putting together tolerable and even good verses. In some cases (and I am disposed to reckon my own among the number), either from novelty of subject or style, or peculiarity of information, even this subordinate degree of talent leads to considerable literary distinction: but nothing can be more precarious than the attempt to raise oneself from obscurity, and place empty and tantalising objects in the view, diverting the poet from those which, fairly and manfully followed out, seldom fail to conduct worth and industry to comfort and independence. I by no means advise you to lay aside your taste for literature; it does you credit as a man, and very possibly as a man of talents. But those powers which can make verses are applicable to the more useful and ordinary purposes of life. Your situation is at present dependent; but there is none so low from which patience, industry, and perseverance cannot raise the possessor of those excellent qualities. I would only advise you to publish in such a shape as to insure a return of profit, as some compensation for adopting the thriftless occupation of a poet. If you should resort to subscription, you are at liberty to put down my name; for I scarce think that a man who writes so sensible a letter can be guilty of the folly of publishing very bad verses. I am, sir, with sincere good will, your humble servant,
WALTER SCOTT.

"Abbotsford, 31st March, 1819.

"P.S. As you have given me no direction, I can only use the general one pointed out by your letter."

At a later period Scott was neither so fastidious nor so conscientious about his complimentary replies to complimentary presentations and dedications. He held it to be the wisest and easiest plan to praise the donors to the top of their bent. But our next opening gives us a more enduring theme—"Staffa."

"After surveying the various objects in Iona, we sailed for a spot no less interesting. Thousands have seen Staffa, and thousands have described it. Few, however, have seen it by torch or candle-light, and in this respect we differ from most tourists. All description, however, of this far-famed wonder must be vain

and fruitless. The shades of night were fast descending, and had settled on the still waves and the little group of islets, called the Treshnish Isles, when our vessel approached the celebrated temple of the sea. We had light enough to discern its symmetry and proportions; but the colour of the rock—a dark grey—and the minuter graces of the columns, were undistinguishable in the evening gloom. The great face of the rock is the most wonderful production of nature we ever beheld; it reminded us of the west-front of York or Lincoln cathedral—a resemblance, perhaps, fanciful in all but the feelings they both excite—especially when the English minster is seen by moonlight. The highest point of Staffa at this view is about a hundred feet; in its centre is the great cave, called Fingal's Cave, stretching up into the interior of the rock, a distance of more than two hundred feet. After admiring, in mute astonishment, the columnar proportions of the rock, regular as if chiseled by the hand of art, the passengers entered a small boat and sailed under the arch. The boatmen had been brought from Iona, and they instantly set themselves to light some lanterns, and form torches of old ropes and tar, with which they completely illuminated the ocean-hall into which we were ushered. The complete stillness of the scene, except the low plashing of the waves—the fitful gleams of light thrown at first on the walls and ceiling, as the men moved to and fro along the side of the stupendous cave—the appearance of the varied roof, where different stalactites, or petrifications are visible—the vastness and the perfect art, or semblance of art, of the whole, altogether formed a scene the most sublime, grand, and impressive ever witnessed. The cathedral of Iona sunk into insignificance before this great temple of nature, reared, as if in mockery of the temples of man, by that almighty Power who laid the beams of his chambers in the waters, and who walketh upon the wings of the wind. Macculloch says that it is with the morning sun only that the great face of Staffa can be seen in perfection; as the general surface is undulating and uneven, large masses of light or shadow are thus produced. We can believe, also, that the interior of the cave, with its broken pillars and variety of tints, and with the green sea rolling over a dark red or violet-coloured rock, must be seen to most advantage in the full light of day. Yet we question whether we could have been more deeply sensible of the beauty and grandeur of the scene, than we were under the unusual circumstances we have described. The boatmen sang a Gaelic jorum, or boat-song, in the cave, striking their oars violently in time with the music, which resounded finely through the vault, and was echoed back by roof and pillar. One of them also fired a gun, with the view of producing a still stronger effect of the same kind. When we had fairly satisfied ourselves with contemplating the cave, we all entered the boat, and sailed round by the Clamshell cave (where the basaltic columns are bent like the ribs of a ship) and the rock of the *bnachaille*, or the herdsman, formed of small columns, as regular and as interesting as the larger productions. We all clambered to the top of the rock, which affords grazing for sheep and cattle, and is said to yield a rent of 20*l.* per annum to the proprietor, Mr. Macdonald of Staffa, whom Sir Walter Scott has described as 'the king of all kind fellows.' Nothing but the wide surface of the ocean was visible from our mountain-eminent; and, after a few minutes survey, we descended, returned to the boat, and, after regaining the steam-vessel, took our

farewell look of Staffa, and steered on for Tobermory."

With one chance more we conclude this agreeable northern miscellany.

"*Lynedoch Cottage*, the seat of the venerable Lord Lynedoch, stands on the banks of the river Almond, about six miles from Perth. The house is truly a cottage; but it opens into a conservatory and flower-garden, kept in exquisite order, with the river murmuring below. A more secluded spot can hardly be conceived. The surrounding grounds consist of green pastoral hills and dells, succeeding each other like waves of the sea; and though fertile and cultivated fields are in the distance, not another house or cottage is visible. About half a mile from the aged warrior's nest is a spot still more retired, though famous in Scottish song; it is the grave of the two heroines, 'Bessy Bell and Mary Gray,' whose simple and touching story has been embalmed by some rustic poet, in a copy of verses that has floated down through generations of readers. In 1645 the city of Perth was sadly desolated with the plague. Three thousand of the inhabitants died, and numerous parties went to the country to escape the contagion, and built huts for themselves among the solitary hills. The grounds near the river Almond are expressly stated, in a contemporary manuscript, as having been the scene of some of these erections; and thither, among others, according to the tradition of the country, went Bessy Bell, daughter of the Laird of Kinvaid, and Mary Gray, daughter of the Laird of Lynedoch. They were both eminent beauties—the flowers of Almond Water. The infection was accidentally carried to their 'bower' by some young gentleman, who came to visit them in their solitude, and both died, and were interred on the spot. The dread of contagion had, no doubt, prevented their interment 'among their noble kin.' Lord Lynedoch has put an iron railing round the grave, and planted some yew-trees beside it. The peasantry had long decorated it with flowers, and all the lads and lasses made annual pilgrimages to a spot consecrated by so many tender and affecting associations. The scene is well calculated to deepen such impressions. It is at the foot of a high bank, completely sheltered and concealed by a wood; but in front of the place where the fair friends 'biggit their bower,' is a plot of delicious green-sward, visited by the setting sun, and the river murmurs past with a ceaseless but gentle flow, that gives a feeling of something like life and animation to the secluded scene. Many of our old ballads and airs have a melancholy character, but there is none more touching than this of Bessy Bell and Mary Gray. It is a romance of the heart, and on such a subject a few rude verses have a secure foundation. Even Queen Victoria's progress in Perthshire will be sooner forgotten than this simple country story, and the grave of the unfortunate maidens will be visited when the royal footsteps have ceased to be remembered."

Hydrotherapia; or, the Water-Cure, &c. &c. By Thomas Smethurst, M.D. 8vo, pp. 282. London, Snow.

The Water-Cure: a Lecture on the Principles of Hydropathy, &c. By Edward Johnson, Esq., M.D. Pp. 43. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

The Cold-Water Cure Tested, &c. Small 8vo, pp. 40. London, Cleave.

The water-cure has received, since we last touched upon the subject, a very severe check

in this country. Cases which have terminated most disastrously, after treatment in various of the hydropathic establishments, are spoken of, and well-known in every circle of society. There is none almost that has not its particular case to relate. On the other hand, notwithstanding the profusion of treatises upon the subject in general, there have been no details of practice given to the medical or to the general public since the introduction of those establishments into this country,—although it is manifestly to the advantage of the professors of the art to publish their successes; for they may be sure that the public will circulate their reverses pretty quickly, without the aid of the printing-press. Whether this state of things, so unfavourable to the progress of hydrotherapia, is owing to the insufficiency of the proposed means, to the climate not being adapted for them, or to the want of practical knowledge on the part of the professors, we cannot venture to say: it cannot be solely the last, for many of the English establishments are under the care of persons well versed in the art; but certain it is, and very distinctly evident, that more caution and discrimination are requisite than have hitherto been given to the use of so remarkable a remedy; and we cannot for a moment entertain the opinion that, whatever may be the prejudice entertained by the public with regard to metastasis, or the driving inwards of a disease, that any medical man has ever treated a patient without regard to his power of reaction. For the same reason, the public will, no doubt, be careful not to employ even as an hydrotherapeutist one who is not educated as a medical man, not even on the faith of Priessnitz's successes; for all may not have the same intuition of the resources of the human constitution; and it is always safer to depend upon education and experience, which are more or less certain, than upon genius or intuition, which, however much vaunted, may often be found sadly wanting in an emergency.

Having made these few remarks with regard to the progress of the water-cure, we may add, that, with regard to the works before us, Dr. Smethurst's volume is the most complete manual for the public or the medical practitioner that has yet come before us. The details are concise, and yet comprehensive; and the book will be of decided use. Dr. E. Johnson is well known as a successful author; his Lecture delivered before the Hydropathic Society attracted great attention, and deservedly so. It is an able defence on scientific principles of the use of water as a curative means, and brings in Liebig's views to its illustration. The last little work on our list is founded on Mr. Schlemmer's pamphlet, previously noticed, and some others, and appears to be got up for those who can only afford sixpence to become acquainted with a very much over-written and over-rated means of cure.

The Dublin Journal of Medical Science; including the latest Discoveries, &c. No. 68, for May. Dublin, Hodges and Smith.

THIS valuable medical journal contains the usual number of important papers, although the subjects treated are not afflictions of such real magnitude as frequently occupy the attention of our medical brethren across the channel. Mr. Hamilton communicates some curious cases of painful affections of the fifth pair of nerves, similar cases to some of which we have lately seen treated with great success on the chronothermal system. Dr. C. Lees communicates cases and observations on the dropsy following scarlet fever in children; Dr. Colles, observa-

tions on some morbid affections of the nail of the great toe; Dr. Steele, on indigestion, considered in connexion with air in the stomach; and Dr. Hocken writes an able essay on the question, Should the child be placed to the mother's breast almost immediately after delivery, or should twenty-four hours or more be allowed to intervene, as is the usual custom? The practice advocated by the doctor contains nothing new to us—the statement of what is the usual custom in these cases does; we never knew but one practice, and that is the one advocated by the doctor.

L'Univers Pittoresque : Histoire et Description de tous les Peuples, &c. &c. 8vo, pp. 525. Paris and London, Firmin Didot, frères.

AMONG the standard publications for which we are indebted to the press of Messrs. Didot, that entitled *L'Univers Pittoresque*, of which the volume before us is part, deserves a foremost place among the justly popular and useful. It contains the history of Mexico and Guatemala by M. de Larenauvière (if we are not mistaken, one of the ablest geographers in France), and of Peru by M. Lacroix, in whom, we believe, we may recognise the well-known "Bibliophile Jacob." It is thus that such works in the neighbouring country are entrusted to competent hands, and pains taken to make them worthy of the public, instead of mere hasty compilations got together no one cares how, and nobody knows by what mechanical drudgery.

We have not seen the preceding volumes of *L'Univers*; but observe from M. Didot's catalogue that they consist of Greece by M. Pouqueville, Italy by Chevalier Artaud, Sweden and Norway by M. Le Bas, Germany and France by the same, England by M. M. Galibert and Cl. Pellé, editors of the able *Revue Britannique*, and others by distinguished writers; whilst the announcements of forthcoming continuations promise an equal degree of merit in the whole design.

With regard to this South-American sample, we can truly say that it comprehends a diligent digest of all the most important and the latest information; and is illustrated by no fewer than seventy-six engravings and two good maps. The religion, manners, and customs, of the people, their antiquities and their traditions, are described with fidelity and clearness; and, in a word, the volume (the fourth relating to America) is highly deserving of approbation. In looking at the grotesque and rude figures of the deities worshipped in Yucatan or Bolivia, it occurs to us that we are not to ascribe these monstrous forms, in any nation, to an abstract admiration of the ugly and hideous. We are rather inclined to imagine that all such traditional divinities, be they Buddhist, or Hindoo, or Persian, or Egyptian, or Scandinavian, or Celtic, or Saxon, or Peruvian, have their origin in the pristine imperfection of the arts. The first figures of gods, demigods, heroes, symbols of nature, representations of heavenly bodies, and other objects of adoration, were of similar character to what children would draw in their attempts at embodying their ideas. These designs were transmitted from generation to generation; and it would be held irreligious to alter what their forefathers worshipped. Thus the outrageous absurdities of puerile and fantastical combinations became sacred, and for thousands of years the wretched performances of barbarians have impersonated the deities of millions of civilised men. This may be merely a new hypothesis; but we must say we think it worthy of consideration.

Political Philosophy. Part II. By Henry Lord Brougham, F.R.S. 8vo, pp. 393. London, published by the Society of Useful Knowledge; and Chapman and Hall.

In this volume Lord Brougham pursues his investigation into another system of government, viz. that carried on by aristocracies. From the known acumen and indefatigable industry of the noble author, an exposition of a very comprehensive nature and great value has resulted; and this volume will be found to be full of varied information. Besides the general origin, aspects, and effects, of aristocratic powers, he examines the changes in these bodies, the vices and virtues which belong to them, and their several characters, such as feudal, mixed, &c. He then seeks illustrations in historical retrospects of Rome, Greece, and the Italian States; and winds up with Switzerland. Need we add, that the work displays all the expected ability of Lord Brougham, and will take its place in the libraries of those to whom such inquiries are acceptable. The matters are too many and important for our discussion.

Chronicles of Saint Mungo; or, Antiquities and Traditions of Glasgow. Pp. 434. Glasgow, Smith and Son; London and Edinburgh, Blackwoods.

A VOLUME of greater local than general interest, but yet not without a considerable portion of the latter. Glasgow has been a stirring place from early history, and has within the last century risen to high manufacturing and commercial importance. The present publication deduces its history from ancient times, tells us of its old aspects and buildings, of its literature and arts, of its religious feuds and riots, of its constitution; and fires, and floods, and charities, and distinguished natives and public characters; in short, it has garnered and put into one store-house all the scattered information respecting it which can be desired by the antiquary or modern citizen intent on the actual hour. The notices of the "fifteen" and "forty-five," of the famed printers Foulis, and of the eminent men [whom Glasgow has produced, including the late James Graham, James Cleland, Thomas Hamilton, William Motherwell, Robert Macnish, and Dugald Moore, and the living Thomas Campbell and John Gibson Lockhart, are among the portions of the work which have pleased us most; but we think they might have been treated more fully: for we can remember seeing some miscellaneous literature, and particularly poetical volumes, connected with the place, an account of which, and of the contributors, would have been very agreeable. There were some comic tales of much characteristic humour. Of Dougal Graham, the rhyming chronicler of the rebellion of '45, and afterwards bellman of the town, we could also have liked somewhat more; but altogether this is a good and well-concocted history.

A Voice from the Vintage, &c. By Mrs. Ellis. Pp. 215. Fishers.

AN inculcation of temperance by an author who always writes earnestly, and almost always pleasantly. It is addressed to those who think and feel, and from the force of example exhorts to tea-totalism principles.

Letters from the Virgin Islands, illustrative of Life and Manners in the West Indies. Pp. 286. London, J. Van Voorst.

THE Virgin Islands may be rather virgin topics for a book, but we cannot say that we find enough of novelty or interest in these pages to think them worthy of publication. The writer appears to be a clever person, well-read, scholarly, and gentlemanly; but there is a want of

importance in his matter, which does not go beyond the agreeable for private correspondence.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

June 26.—The Rev. G. C. Renouard in the chair. Resumed and concluded the reading of Mr. Falconer's notes of his journey in Texas. The traveller left Galveston for Houston on March 12, 1841, in a steamer drawing $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet water; but grounded on Red Fish Bar, owing to hard winds having blown the water out of the bay. The first object of interest noticed was a prairie-fire, which, as seen from the sea, might have agreed exactly with Capt. B. Hall's account of the fire seen by him when rounding Cape Horn. On the 14th, Harrisburg was passed. Buffalo River is described as being here so narrow as barely to afford room for two steamers to pass each other. The banks are high and thickly covered with magnolia-trees. The wrecks of two steamers, sunk by striking against snags, proved that the navigation was not free from danger. Houston has been reckoned unhealthy, and so it was at one time; but sanitary measures, by removing the causes of disease, have rendered the place considerably more healthy. The houses are generally at a considerable elevation above the water. They are chiefly frame-built, and are comfortable. The moral character of the inhabitants has greatly improved. From Houston the traveller proceeded westward over a prairie, where he saw large herds of deer; and at Oyster Creek the owner of the settlement where he stopped spoke highly of the fertility of his land. By merely scraping up the soil with his stick, he had obtained 50 bushels of maize per acre; but, if the ground was prepared, it yielded 70 bushels an acre. With regard to the cotton, it was observed that on the prairie-lands the cotton-bolls burst more generally at the same time than they do on the cleared lands, which renders a greater number of hands necessary for the picking. The Brazos River was next reached, which is described as having a strong, rapid, coloured current, running between precipitous banks, and too deep to ford. It was at this time—23d March—low, but in the rainy season is a torrent. In February of the present year—1843—it was above its banks; the water in the bottom opposite the town of Washington being from 15 to 20 feet deep, and extending to the hills 9 miles off, many hundred cattle were swept away. The town of Richmond, a thriving little place, being passed, the small river St. Bernard was reached, where there are some fertile cane-lands. Crossing this, and then Peach Creek, a settlement called Egypt was reached; it is a fertile district, abounding in cattle and horses; but the sallow faces and feeble persons of the settlers shewed the prevalence of sickness. The waters of the Colorado river were found to be low; and this river, which has high and precipitous banks, is, like the Brazos, not seen till you are close upon it. The stream is rapid and coloured; its floods are in September and October. From the Colorado to the town of Victoria, on the Guadalupe, is a day's ride; during which are successively crossed the Navidad, the Rio la Vaca, and the Garcite. Here, at the Rancho de De Leon, is one of the finest *empresarios* for the colonisation of the country. Victoria may become an important place of trade when the raft a few miles below shall be removed. At present its foreign supplies are landed at Linville, in

La Baca Bay, whence also San Antonio is supplied. The population is estimated at about 500 or 600 persons. The cow-thieves having made this place their head-quarters give it a bad repute, and they have caused the destruction of an important trade between this town and the Rio Grande. Having been ferried over the Guadalupe, the traveller next crossed the Rio Coletto, and came to Goliad, on the Rio San Antonio. This town was utterly destroyed in 1836. Three days more over fertile prairies, capable of maintaining an immense number of cattle, brought Mr. Falconer to San Antonio. The whole country (says this gentleman) south of a line drawn from the city of Austin to a point twenty miles above Houston, and bounded by another line running north of Victoria, cannot be considered healthy for Europeans. Fever and agues and bilious fevers prevail; and he heard painful accounts of the sufferings and death of emigrants. Even the Mexicans at San Antonio expressed their dislike to live on the Colorado, and spoke of its fatality. To the west of the Colorado, and to the north of the line mentioned, the country, Mr. Falconer thinks, is more healthy. The town of San Antonio de Bexar is laid out with some regularity, and is minutely described in the paper. Between this town and the Rio Grande, there are no settlements, but, interspersed with arid spots, there is some of the finest scenery in the west of Texas. There is abundance of fine oaks, as also cotton, pecan, and sycamore trees, and fine pastures. Between the Rio San Antonio and the Rio Grande, are the Honda, the Trio, and the Leona, and the Neuces, to which the former three are tributaries. The paper gives an itinerary from San Antonio to the Rio Grande. In June Mr. Falconer left San Antonio for Austin, passing by the head-waters of the San Antonio river, which are in part kept up by an embankment for the irrigation of the lands in and around the city. The Cibola was crossed at some water-holes. The same river, a few miles south, had been a clear and rapid stream, but it is said to sink in some parts. The Guadalupe was next forded in the upper part of its course, and the travellers reached the Rio Blanco, an affluent of the San Marcos. Manjack Springs and Onion Creek were next passed; and at Bartoris Springs the water was found to be fourteen feet deep, and perfectly clear to the bottom. The Colorado was next crossed with some difficulty, and Mr. Falconer arrived at Austin. The country he had passed through is what is termed prairie, only a small portion of it presenting that undulated form which gives rise to the name "rolling prairie." The finest land is between the Guadalupe and the San Marcos, and between this and the Rio Blanco is a rich and heavily timbered bottom. The city of Austin, which is next described, is said to be well laid out, and to contain excellent frame-built houses. The town is on the extreme frontier, and though hardly established two years, presents a very flourishing appearance. At Austin Mr. Falconer was invited to accompany an expedition, represented to be undertaken for mercantile objects, to Santa Fé. It was to be accompanied by a military force of about 270 men for the protection of the waggons of merchandise, a common precaution in crossing a hostile Indian country. Leaving Austin on June the 17th, the traveller joined the party at Brushy, which place they left on the 19th, and crossed successively the Brushy Creek and the river San Gabrielle. In the prairie were found small pieces of iron ore, of which a handful might be collected in a circle of five feet. The San Andreas river was next

crossed, and vast herds of cattle were seen whose numbers could scarcely be exaggerated. Four days hence brought them to Bosque River; passing and proceeding still northward, they came on the 11th of July in sight of Comanche Peak, which, notwithstanding its name, is a flat-topped or table mountain. On the 13th the Brazos was crossed, and a petrified tree seen, probably the petrified forest of the maps. Several more small streams were next passed, and on the 21st they got into a thickly wooded country, which they had difficulty in passing. On the 27th they found they were in latitude $30^{\circ} 35'$ and longitude $97^{\circ} 44'$, after which they turned westward. On the 4th of August they came to a large river of very red-coloured water, and a pretty Indian village. On the following day they halted at the north side of a large red lake. On August the 7th they stopped at a small fresh-water stream, which they again reached and crossed on the 8th. On the 9th and 10th they had great difficulty in getting through gullies and ravines, all running to the river. They supposed themselves to be now on Red River, and nearer to Santa Fé than their calculation made it. They got guides and went more southward till the 14th. On the 13th they were on the edge of a valley, through which they supposed the large river they had crossed to run; but the prairie having accidentally caught fire and burnt two of their waggons, they could not ascertain the fact. As they proceeded, they had a river on their right, which they supposed to be the Wishetaw. On the 17th, 18th, and 19th, they were compelled to stop near a fine spring bursting out of the ground, but the water of which, shortly after being exposed to the sun, became nauseous and bitter. Mr. Falconer was one of the very few whom this water did not affect; but sickness and diarrhoea were almost universal. On the 21st they were glad to move forward; the rations were reduced to half a pound of poor meat; salt, vinegar, sugar, and coffee, were exhausted, and they had no flour. They soon came to the first true range of table-land, and found good pasture for the cattle; over this plateau they travelled four days. Since July the 27th they estimated they had travelled 270 miles. Their present latitude was $34^{\circ} 20'$; their longitude, $101^{\circ} 25'$. On the 25th August they reached a salt stream, running east. On the 26th another table-land was ascended; here the appearance of the country became much better. On the 4th September they reached the Quintafue, a branch of the Palo Duro, a tributary of Red river. After about 70 miles travel on this level they came to the precipitous edge of this table-land. The party now divided; and ninety men were sent on to make their way to San Miguel, and to send back guides and provisions to those halting, who were several times attacked by the Indians, and lost fourteen of their company. The guides having arrived, the camp was broken up; and as on a former occasion eighty-three horses had been stolen by the Indians, seventy of the men were compelled to walk. On the 23d they reached the Rio Escaravada, and crossed over to the left bank. On the 4th Oct. they arrived at the high ground lying between the streams running to the Red river, and those running into the Puerco; and shortly afterwards they were stopped by a body of Mexicans, and compelled to capitulate. On the morning of the 8th they reached the camp of General Armijo on the Rio Galenas; from hence it was an open plain to Anthon Chico on the Puerco. This river was crossed twice before they reached Cuesta, a very pretty set-

tlement. The next place reached was San Miguel, a town containing about 2000 inhabitants; here they were joined by some of the party that had separated from them at the end of August. The route they had taken is described, but we have not room for it, further than to say that they suffered greatly at one time, and were obliged to kill one of their horses for subsistence. Mr. Kendall, who was of that party, had been made prisoner, and roughly treated. At San Miguel three of the men who had left the main body on the 11th of August were brought out into the public square and shot. On the 17th of October they all started from San Miguel. On the 18th they passed the mountains, at that time covered with snow; at the northern base of which lies the town of Santa Fé. On the 20th they came in sight of the Rio Grande, passing two pretty towns called San Domingo and San Philippe. Turning south, they passed successively several villages and farms, and reached the Presidio del Paso del Norte on the 4th of November. This is a place of considerable size; and here they were received with great kindness. On the route from San Miguel many of the men were sick; and being without shoes, were broken down by lameness and fatigue. Three of these unfortunates were shot by order of the officer in command of the troops, without the slightest provocation, and two others died a natural death. All the country on the eastern bank of the Rio Grande that appeared capable of cultivation was settled on, and where practicable the water of the river was let in for irrigation. Leaving Paso on the 9th, and on the 13th having a reinforcement of oxen, they commenced the passage of the Arenalitas. This is a remarkable district, about six miles broad, of sandhills, and extending as far as could be seen to the right and left. On the 15th they reached the Ojo Caliente. On the 18th they encamped without water; but on the 19th reached a fine stream, where were large cotton-trees amongst the granite rocks. On the 20th they continued their journey along the plain; they halted near a lake beyond which they could see the great Hacienda of Encenillas. In all this neighbourhood the greatest fear of the Indians prevailed, and not without reason, as the Haciendas had all suffered from their attacks. Thus the Haciendas of San Miguel and Baviocora, about seventy miles from the capital, which had in the year 1830 more than 12,000 head of cattle, and more than 1000 horses, had been almost desolated. The attacks commenced in that year; and it was calculated that the loss sustained had amounted to ten millions of dollars, and that upwards of 10,000 persons of both sexes had been killed.

This very interesting and long paper, into the details of which our limits do not allow us to enter, concludes with a few important remarks on the state of the country, and the baneful effects which have resulted from the weakness of the Mexican government.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 24.—Mr. Warburton, president, in the chair. The following communications were read: 1. "On the geology of some points on the west coast of Africa and of the banks of the river Niger," by Dr. Stanger. The localities noticed were: 1. Sierra Leone, where ferruginous sandstone and hyperstene rock were found; 2. Liberia, greenstone and ferruginous sandstone; 3. River Sinod, gneiss and greenstone; 4. Cape Coast Castle, which stands on a mass of granite, containing imbedded masses of hornblende slate; 5. Accra, built on sandstone;

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6. Grand Sesters, where the rocks are gneiss cut through by granite; and 7. The banks of the Niger. No rocks appear on the Niger until we reach Iddah, 100 miles above its delta, which is a flat, swampy tract, and 220 from the sea. At Iddah cliffs of sandstone, 185 feet high, appear. This sandstone composes a great part of the country, as far as was explored. It is almost horizontal, and only one obscure fossil was detected in it. At Ikosi mica slate appears, resting on the granite composing Mount Soracte and the neighbouring hills, which do not attain a greater height than 1200 feet. The granite extends to Adda Kudda, where it is mixed up and complicated with gneiss, which dips 60° south. The granite appears to be the central axis, mica slate and gneiss occurring on both sides, and dipping at great angles. The granite forms the line of the so-called King Mountains, which in no case were observed higher than 1200 feet.—2. "On the classification of granitic rocks," by Mr. R. Wallace. The author divides the granitic rocks into two classes; the first of which contains granites in the composition of which the alkaline earths form no essential part, whilst in the members of his second class they are essential ingredients. His first class is divided into two orders: the first, called by Mr. Wallace *perfect granite*, is a ternary compound of quartz, feldspar, and di-axial mica, universally diffused, and generally coarse-grained when found in mass; the second order he calls *imperfect granite*, including the compounds of feldspar and mica without quartz, and of quartz and feldspar without mica. He believes there is no binary granitic compound of quartz and mica, as such would be incapable of assuming the granitic structure. In his second class he includes three divisions: 1. Hornblende granite; 2. Talcosc granite, or protogine; and 3. Schorly granite. Each of these orders includes several varieties. Of these various granites the author regards the ternary, composed of quartz, feldspar, and binaxial mica, as the lowest accessible rock of the earth's original crust, uplifted and protruded through sedimentary strata at different periods, from the earliest to the latest age of igneous disturbance. The fine-grained varieties of ternary granite, which are often found in veins, have probably been fused a second time. The seat of the binary granites was probably below that of the ternary rock, but higher than that of the granites which contain alkaline earthy substances. In general, the conclusion of the author is, that the absence of mica, or the presence of minerals abounding in magnesia or lime, or that of metallic oxides, or a transition into syenite, porphyry, basalt, or volcanic rocks, are indications of an origin of later date than that of ancient granite.—3. Mr. Austen read a note explanatory of some points in his paper "On the various subdivisions of the cretaceous series."—4. "Observations on part of the section of the lower greensand at Atherfield in the Isle of Wight," by Dr. Felton. The object of this paper was to show that the beds referred by Mr. Austen to the Neocomien are the lowest beds of the lower greensand, and that their equivalent exists at Atherfield in the Isle of Wight, where the junction of the greensand and Wealden had formerly been concealed, but was now exposed, showing the unexamined space to be under 3 feet, much less than was supposed; and that the stratum occupying that space is of the same geological character, and contains many of the same marine fossils, as the stone immediately above it. The beds exposed by the Atherfield section are, in ascending order: 1. Weald clay towards the junction, containing oysters and

spiral univalves, mingled with fresh-water shells. 2. An alternation of sand with portions of clay, separated by lighter coloured greenish matter for 6 or 8 inches, forming the junction. 3. Sandy greenish clay, of a muddy aspect, forming a bed generally about 2½ feet thick, containing fossils, some of which, as *Perna Mulleti*, are species lately described as Neocomien by M. Leymerie, and others as *Pecten 5-costatus*, range through the lowest portions of the greensand up to the highest subcretaceous strata. 4. Sub-ferruginous rock, which, in 1826, was the lowest visible member of the greensand. It contains numerous fossils, including some of those new to Britain, lately detected in Surrey by Mr. Austen, accompanied by others having a considerable upward range. 5. Fuller's earth, not less than 30 feet thick, and containing fossils. The author then describes certain fossiliferous ranges, principally of concretions, containing more or less calcareous matter, found throughout the space between Atherfield and Black Gang Chine, and notices the correspondence of the association of species in these with that observable at Hythe, near the top of the middle division of the lower greensand, on the shore east of Shanklin Chine in the Isle of Wight, and at Parham Park in Surrey. He also remarks the correspondence of the Atherfield section with others near Redhill, near the South Eastern Railroad in Surrey, at Pulborough in Western Sussex, at Hythe, and at Sandown Bay, in the Isle of Wight. Dr. Felton concludes, by observing, that, since he has shewn that the stratum which contains the fossils enumerated by Mr. Austen belongs to the lower part of the greensand, it is obvious that, if these fossils are characteristic of the *Terrain Neocomien*, the deposit itself which has received that name, as well as its various equivalents upon the continent, must be geologically the same; and that the hypothesis, which supposes the Neocomien contemporary with the Wealden, can no longer be sustained. At the same time, he does not deny the probability of the existence of a marine equivalent of the Wealden.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

June 20th.—The president in the chair. A paper, by Mr. J. Taylor, was read, describing a machine for raising and lowering the miners in the deep mines of Cornwall. It is composed of two wooden rods, with platforms fixed at given distances upon them, and placed either vertically or following the inclination of the vein, as is the custom for the shafts in tin and copper-mines. These rods receive an alternating motion from a steam-engine; and at the moment of pause, when the crank is passing over the centres, the men step from one platform to another, and thus either ascend or descend in the pits without fatigue. By the usual mode of arriving at or leaving their labour the workmen are exhausted, traversing ladders to the depth frequently of more than 200 fathoms, and their health has been found to be severely injured. This machine has been successfully at work in the Tresavean mines upwards of a year, and its use will, it is hoped, be soon extended.—A short description was then read of an ingenious annular valve, constructed by Mr. Hosking, and said to be in use with advantage at the Vauxhall Water-Works, and attached to some very large engines for draining fens.—A paper, by S. C. Homersham, described the original leather-flap valves generally used for pumps, their defects, and the modifications which had been introduced in them. It entered very fully into the details of

the construction of the valves and their qualities, and elicited a very animated and useful discussion. The subject was illustrated by numerous drawings and models.

INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

June 26.—Mr. J. Scoles in the chair. Mr. C. H. Smith laid before the meeting "Observations on the circumstances that influence the precipitation or condensation of moisture on the surfaces of walls." Mr. E. Hall then read a paper "On propriety of style, particularly with reference to the modern adaptation of Gothic architecture;" the object of which was to prove that pointed architecture was the only style suited for ecclesiastical structures in England of every faith; and that whatever objections might be brought against the former practice of the Gothic architects, these were removed by modern invention and skill, and therefore could have no force against its adaptation in the present day.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

June 15.—The sixth anniversary was held this day—the president, Prof. Wilson, in the chair. The council's report on the state of the society was read, from which it appears the funds are larger and more available than at any time since the institution of the society. The society has lost by death five members, among whom mention was made of the respected Mr. G. Rokewode, the learned and affable director of the Society of Antiquaries; and of Mr. R. Fox, the enlightened promoter of literary and scientific pursuits in the towns of Huntingdon and Godmanchester, and founder of the Literary and Scientific Institution at the former place. The society has also lost three foreign associates, all distinguished individuals, namely, M. Mionnet, conservateur adjoint du Cabinet des Médailles dans la Bibliothèque du Roi, and author of the voluminous and celebrated *Description des Médailles Antiques*; Dr. Gesenius, the well-known and learned professor of Hebrew in the University of Halle; and the Chevalier Bronsted, professor of philology and archaeology in the University of Copenhagen. A considerable diminution in the numbers of the society has taken place owing to retirements during the year; they amount to upwards of thirty. The far greater number of these belong to the class specified in the last report, as those from whom the society had never received any support whatever, not even pecuniary aid. They were, in fact, but nominally members, swelling the list of names only, and adding nothing to the resources of the society. Several new members and associates have been elected; and the list of benefactors to the library and cabinets of the society comprehends not only the names of distinguished individuals in this country, but also, in a far greater proportion, some of the most eminent patrons and cultivators of numismatic research in Paris, Brussels, Madrid, Florence, Petersburg, Rome, Athens, and other places: thus proving that the exertions of the society, however humble and restricted, have been noticed and appreciated throughout Europe. A ballot for officers and council for 1843-4 then took place, when the following gentlemen were declared elected:

President: Lord A. D. Conyngham. Vice-presidents: C. F. Barnwell, Esq., H. H. Wilson, Esq. Treasurer: J. B. Berge, Esq. Secretaries: J. Y. Akerman, Esq., C. R. Smith, Esq. Foreign secretary: J. Y. Akerman, Esq. Librarian: H. W. Diamond, Esq. Members of the Council: S. Birch, J. Brumell, Esqs.; Hon. T. F. Butler; Rev. H. Christmas; G. R. Cor-

ner, J. D. Cuff, W. D. Haggard, E. Hawkins, T. Horsfield, M.D., J. Huxtable, J. Lee, B. Nightingale, Esqrs.

CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY.

Report of the Observatory Syndicate.—The syndicate appointed to visit the Observatory beg leave to make the following report:—1. The meridian observations of 1842 were the following: Observations of stars with the transit, 1901; with the circle, 1943. Observations of the sun, moon, and planets, with the transit, 391; with the circle, 370. Total number of the transit observations, 2292; of circle observations, 2313. The observations of bodies of the solar system were as follows:—

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| Of the Sun with the transit, 150; with the circle, 145 | |
| " Moon " 82 " 70 | |
| " Juno " 2 " 4 | |
| " Jupiter " 63 " 41 | |
| " Saturn " 51 " 49 | |
| " Uranus " 43 " 61 | |

The transit observations of stars embrace 373 different stars; those of the circle, 424. The greater part of these are double stars. The remainder are either moon-culminating stars, or stars of reference, used in the reduction of extra-meridian observations. The number of observations of double stars taken with the Northumberland telescope in 1842 was 340, each consisting generally of four measures of angular position, and four of distance, with an estimation of magnitudes and colours. The other equatorial observations of the same year were observations of differences of R.A. and N.P.D. of Encke's comet and neighbouring stars, taken with the Northumberland equatorial and the 5-feet equatorial; similar observations of Laugier's comet with the 5-feet equatorial; measures of the apparent diameters of Jupiter, Saturn, and Saturn's rings, with the double-wire micrometer of the Northumberland telescope; and occultations of fixed stars by the Moon. The above enumeration includes all the observations which will be contained in the volume for 1842.—2. From the beginning of the present year the Sun, Moon, and Moon-culminating stars, have been regularly observed. The planets selected for observation this year are Mars, Vesta, Juno, and Ceres; of which Vesta and Ceres have already been observed as long as their positions allowed of their being seen on the meridian. These observations are 666 transit observations, 723 circle observations, and 128 observations of double stars. In consequence of the incapacity of the senior assistant through illness, these observations were nearly all taken by Mr. Glaisher. Very recently the Northumberland and 5-feet equatorials have been employed in observations of a new comet, discovered in the beginning of May by M. Mauvais of the Paris Observatory, the number of which has amounted to 29 in R.A. and 20 in N.P.D. Occultations of the Moon have been observed as usual; and a series of observations of differences of N.P.D. of Mars in opposition and the neighbouring stars has just been commenced with the Northumberland equatorial.—3. The printing of the observations of 1840 has advanced to twenty-six sheets, which include all the meridian observations of that year. Two sheets of meridian observations of the year 1841 have also been printed. The latter were put to press before the equatorial observations of 1840, because they were in a more forward state of reduction, and are intended, for reasons assigned in the last annual report, to form a part of the same volume. Mr. Airy, the astronomer royal, who projected the mounting of the Northumberland equatorial, desiring to publish a description of it, and having obtained the consent of the Duke of Northumberland to his employing a draftsman for that purpose, has offered to reserve 250 copies of the publication to bind up uniformly with the Cambridge observations. Prof. Challis therefore intends to prefix to the first volume of observations of double stars Mr. Airy's description of this instrument, instead of a description to be drawn up by himself, as was mentioned to his intention in the last report. The number of observations of double stars now amounts to 776, and the number of different stars to 392; the accurate places of which in the heavens are already nearly all determined by meridian observations.—Prof. Challis brought to the notice of the syndicate at its last meeting the backward state of the reduction and publication of the observations. The equatorial observations of 1840 and 1841 are not yet ready for the press; and the meridian observations of 1842 are not more than half reduced. Considerable delay in the final reductions and preparation for the press has been occasioned by the occupation of Prof. Challis's time with lectures; a course of astronomical lectures having been undertaken by him for the first time in the Lent term of this year, in addition to the course of optical lectures he has usually given in the Easter term. Another serious impediment has arisen from the illness of Mr. Baldrey, the senior assistant, who since last October has taken no part in observing, and has been able to give but very limited assistance in the calculations. There is very little prospect

of Mr. Baldrey ever being able to resume his duties; and it will easily be seen that the work of the Observatory cannot be expected to proceed with the same efficiency as formerly till his place is supplied by a new assistant. It appears, therefore, to be necessary to bring this subject formally before the senate, with the view of making provision for enabling him to retire from his office.

W. WILKINSON, Vice-Chanc. | W. WILLIAMSON.
W. H. MILLER. | J. HEMERY.

PARIS LETTER.

Paris, June 24, 1843.

Academy of Sciences: sitting of 19th June.—M. Dumas submitted different products which M. F. Calvert had obtained in treating the protoxide of lead with various reagents. When soda, heated to 40° or 45°, is saturated with the hydrate of protoxide of lead, and the liquor left to cool, a red oxide of lead crystallises in regular cubes. Heated to about 400° this oxide increases in volume, becomes black, and decrepitates, disengaging traces of water (0.1 per cent). If the temperature be raised to cherry-red, it takes a sulphur-yellow colour without losing its crystalline form. It is scarcely soluble in acids; nitric acid, either concentrated or diluted, dissolves it, but with difficulty. Pulverised, it gives an orange-yellow, like that of litharge. Its analysis is—lead, 92.83; oxygen, 7.17. If, instead of soda heated as above, this caustic alkali be melted and similarly treated, the hydrated protoxide becomes red at the very instant it gives rise to a new isomeric protoxide. This new product is an amorphous substance resembling minium in colour. When powdered, it is reddish yellow, similar to that which the red oxide furnishes; but it differs from that in being very soluble in acids. Between 300° and 400° it becomes reddish brown, and does not change its tint in cooling; but above 400° it takes a sulphur-yellow tint as the temperature falls. This oxide may be obtained anhydrous; but it is very difficult to deprive it of its hygrometric water. Its analysis gives numbers which represent the protoxide. One thing curious is, that potash at 45° acts upon hydrated protoxide of lead in excess in the same manner as melted soda, whilst soda at 45° does not produce the like result.

M. Jomard communicated an anomaly observed this year in the increase of the Nile. Observation from time immemorial fixes the first day of the increase after the summer solstice. This, for the latitude of Cairo, is from the 1st to the 10th of July, when the phenomenon ordinarily occurs; but this year a rising was evident at Cairo in the night of the 5th and 6th of May, two months earlier than usual. It lasted only four days, and attained a height of 0.22^m (10 digits of the cubit of the meter), when it subsided; and the river continued to fall, as it always happens, to the period of the solstice. Bruce has mentioned second risings; but later, not earlier, than ordinarily—for example, that of 1737 was after the autumnal equinox: he remarks also that a similar one occurred in the time of Cleopatra. But there is a great difference between this season and that of the month of May, when the south winds blow. The increase noted by M. Jomard is distinct from any one yet observed.

M. de Haldat transmitted the best account he could collect of the meteor seen in the department of Meurthe on the 4th of last May. It appeared about 2 A.M. with a remarkable splendour, which attracted general attention, and terrified the horses of the diligences which were travelling between Pont-a-Mousson and Nancy, Sarrebourg and Blamont. Observers, separated more than 80 kilometres, perceived it, and attributed to it the same splendour. Its

duration was from three to four seconds; some assert that it was preceded by noise. Its height is calculated at from 500 to 600 metres, but from inexact observations. This meteor shone over an extent of from 40 to 50 leagues, as it was also seen in the departments of Doubs, of the Haute-Saône, and of the Meuse.

M. Ackerman described a "harpoon-inoculator" for whale-fishing. The instrument is to contain the black cyanuret of potassium, which would readily dissolve in water, and disengage sufficient prussic acid to produce murderous effects.

M. Delpon believes that, by boring artesian wells, localities subject to earthquakes may be protected from such calamity: he says, whatever be the force which causes subterranean explosions, it would be neutralised by the opening of wells, which would serve for the escape of this force.

EARTHQUAKES.

Extract of a private Letter from Tabriz, dated May 4, 1843:—

"We have been kept here in a state of considerable alarm for the last fifteen or sixteen days, from the frequent recurrence of earthquakes, though here they have hitherto proved harmless. The first shock, which was a severe one, occurred on the 18th of last month; and nearly every day or night since then we have been visited by slight shocks. On the 19th we learnt that a great part of the neighbouring town of Khoi had been reduced to ruins the day before; and subsequent shocks have added to the mischief. Many lives were lost there, but the number is still uncertain. I fear that from 500 to 1000 must have perished. It fortunately happened that a considerable part of the population were out of doors attending the funeral of a favourite Mollah when the first shock occurred. Yesterday we learnt that the little town of Mahon, near the Turkish frontier, has also suffered considerably. The people here are, naturally enough, much alarmed; for Tabriz has thrice been destroyed by earthquakes: the latest misfortune of this sort having occurred about sixty-five years ago, and is of course in the memory of many of the present inhabitants. Many people have quitted the town to live under canvass in the surrounding gardens."

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, June 22.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Doctor in Civil Law.—The Rev. T. Usmar, Queen's College.

Bachelors in Medicine, with license to practise.—H. D. Schofield, Brasenose College; J. Jago, Wadham College; G. T. Fincham, St. John's College.

Masters of Arts.—W. Russell, New Inn Hall; Rev. J. White, Lincoln College; Rev. R. Jackson, T. Mayhew, C. K. Dean, Queen's Coll.; Rev. G. S. H. Vyse, Ch. Ch.; Rev. H. Cobbe, Rev. W. N. T. Marsh, Oriel College; Rev. T. A. Kershaw, Brasenose Coll.; Rev. J. G. Hornby, Merton Coll.; Rev. J. H. Ashburn, Rev. P. F. Britton, Exeter College; Rev. G. F. Master, University Coll.; O. W. Farrer, Balliol College; Rev. J. M. Lakin, Worcester College; Rev. J. R. C. Denny, Trinity College.

Bachelors of Arts.—J. E. Cross, grand compounder, S. W. Steadman, G. Yalden, Ch. Ch.; P. T. Drayton, P. Bush, C. S. Barron, St. Mary Hall; J. Bradwaite, W. Harrison, Queen's College; J. H. Gale, Wadham College; H. Dumbleton, Brasenose College; L. A. E. Hill, Balliol College.

Members' Prizemen.—The annual prizes given by the Representatives of the University, have been adjudged as follows:—

Bachelors.—Subject, "Principiorum juris publici apud Græcos et apud Romanos comparatio." First, to R. K. Walpole, B.A., late scholar of Caius College; second, to G. Nugee, B.A., scholar of Trinity College.

Undergraduates.—Subject, "Quibusnam et fontibus L. Livius historiam primi libri sui hausert, et qu-

tens historia ista vera sit habenda?" To C. Bristed, of Trinity College.—*Cambridge Chronicle*.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

June 24.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Auckland in the chair. Mr. N. Bland read a very interesting paper, containing a notice of the *Atish Kedeh*, a biographical work on Persian poets by Hajji Lutf Ali Beg of Isfahan. After noticing the interest which attaches to the poetic literature of Persia, and the importance of works relating to the biography of their poets, Mr. Bland named a few of the most valuable of those which existed previously on that subject, enumerating the *Baharistan* of Jami, the *Tezkiret al Shuara* of Dowlatshah of Samarcand, and the *Tuhfah Sami* of Sâm Mirza, a son of Shah Ismail the First. Over all these works he gives a decided preference to the *Atish Kedeh*, as containing more copious details, a larger selection in its anthology, and a far greater number of lives than the whole of those set forth in the other biographies. It has also the advantage of bringing the history of literature down to a very late date, the year 1770; thus including a period of 200 years subsequent to the biographical works which preceded it. It is divided into two parts—the ancient and the more modern poets. The first part is further subdivided into four books, of which the first contains such poets as have been emperors, kings, princes, &c., chiefly of foreign birth; and the other three parts comprise respectively the great geographical divisions of Iran, Turan, and Hind. A short chapter is devoted also to some ladies who have distinguished themselves for their talent in poetry, and is of much interest. The second division of the work, containing those poets who were contemporary with the author, is of great importance, and gives the lives of writers which would otherwise have been lost to posterity. The whole number of biographical notices amounts to 842; and the quotations from their poems, as specimens of their style, are very abundant, and are selected with great taste. The sketch the author gives of his own life represents him to have been born at Isfahan in the year 1134 A.H. (A.D. 1721), and to have studied under various learned men; but in particular to have attached himself to poetry and the society of poets. He gives a large selection from his own works, including a whole poem on the story of Joseph and Zulaikha, the critical examination of which Mr. Bland reserved for a separate notice. In the analysis of the work which formed the subject of his memoir, Mr. Bland included many interesting details, which were omitted or abridged in reading, but which we hope will appear in a connected form in the *Transactions* of the Society. The object seems to have been to call the attention of orientalists to a work which has been hitherto very slightly noticed, but which may be considered as the most valuable and important which we possess on Persian literature. The manuscripts of the *Atish Kedeh* appear to be confined to a very small number—two being in Mr. Bland's possession, two in the valuable collection of the Right Hon. Sir G. Ouseley, two in the East India House library, and one in the British Museum. The only copy known on the continent is in St. Petersburg.

After the reading of the above-mentioned paper was concluded, the right hon. president expressed the satisfaction with which he had accepted the office of president, and declared his desire and intention to afford all the assistance in his power to promote the utility and welfare of the society.

FINE ARTS.

THE CARTOON PREMIUMS: WESTMINSTER HALL.

To-day there is a private view (by cards) of the cartoons in Westminster Hall; and her majesty appointed yesterday for her royal visit with Prince Albert (who has taken so efficient and laudable a part in the proceedings of the Commission*) to this most interesting national exhibition. Having given the public the first intimation of its excellence—of its having fully sustained the opinion that British talent, with proper encouragement, is equal to any task—it rejoices us to say that a more direct and distinct knowledge of what has been achieved in this so nearly novel branch of art (as relates to our native school and practice) more than bears out the favourable statement contained in the *Lit. Gaz.*, No. 1377. The public will soon enjoy the opportunity of judging of the truth and justice of this opinion, when they make the circuit of Westminster Hall, and see its venerable walls covered with so many efforts of unquestionable genius.

The artists to whom the premiums have been awarded by the commissioners are,—

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Watts† | } each £300. |
| Mr. Cope† | |
| Mr. Armitage | |
| Mr. Townsend§ | } each £200. |
| Mr. Horsley | |
| Mr. Bell | |
| Mr. Parris†† | } each £100. |
| Mr. Slous,** | |
| Mr. Frost †† | |
| Mr. Severn †† | |
| Mr. Bridges | |

Making in all eleven prizes in the competition, and to the amount of 2000*l.*: how small and insignificant a sum, when we reflect for a moment on the great results it is likely to produce!

Even for a beginning, we are convinced that this exhibition will excite considerable astonishment. We certainly, with all our feelings embarked in the cause of home-art and artists, were not prepared for so triumphant an answer to this appeal; and in several instances by men whose names are scarcely, if at all,

* No prince connected with the throne of England has, for the last two hundred years, shewn so right a feeling for the fine arts, and done so much to promote their interests, as His Royal Highness; and he must be sensible, besides enjoying the pleasure of the arts, that such a position has contributed in no small measure to the great popularity he has earned for himself in the land of his adoption. Well would it be for all the eminent in power to be persuaded that the most certain and delightful path to present admiration and future fame lies in the encouragement of literature and art.—*Ed. L. G.*

† There is an artist of this name (we have not the christened names to distinguish the individual) who has painted a number of clever works.

‡ Has in the present R.A. Exhibition No. 193, *The Colter's Saturday Night*; and 292, *Reading the Scriptures*: both honourable to his talent.

§ Of Manchester, we believe, and unknown to London fame. *The Battle of the Lantern* is, we are inclined to think, his cartoon, and a bold and striking design.

|| Mr. Horsley has in the R.A. Exhibition Nos. 220 and 273—*The Father's Grave*, and a portrait of his relative, Master Brunel.

†† The admired painter of the celebrated diorama of London in the Colosseum, and one of the most successful artists in decorating gorgeous apartments with beautiful art.

** Most favourably known as one of the ablest painters of Burford's charming Panamas.

†† W. E. Frost, we presume, and the painter of No. 55, R.A. Exhibition, *Christ crowned with Thorns*.

‡‡ Long resident at Rome, and the author of many poetical and highly esteemed paintings. His works in the Exhibition this year are No. 516, *Angelica*, from the Orlando Furioso; and 526, a portrait of the Chev. Bunsen.

Of the other successful candidates, we cannot now call any thing to remembrance.

known to the world, and few of them occupying the high places in the profession.

It is observable, indeed, that not one of the members of the Royal Academy who entered the lists have gained a premium, though deservedly distinguished in their own walks of art. In some cases we may fancy that this might arise from their not keeping their own secrets; for the Commission was determined to be ignorant of the competitors, and a pre-knowledge would be against any one of them.

Our readers may like to be told how the hall is arranged for this purpose, as we do not find ourselves at liberty to particularise the drawings which are most prominent among its ornaments, though we may notice that English history from the earliest period furnishes many of the leading subjects, that our poets have also been ransacked for their treasures, and that allegories and imaginings of beautiful forms vary the numbers and general effect. Lear, and Cæsar, and Boadicea—the constitutions of Clarendon, feudal times, and the civil wars—have all representations; and fierce barons and lordly prelates re-enact on the paper those historical events which are the theme of tradition, and have for generations filled the trump of fame. The gallery is constructed all round the hall, the centre being occupied by a lofty panelling; so that we have the cartoons on each side as we pass along, i.e. on the external walls and on the internal panel. The width is sufficient, and the light good; so that all the finest performances can be well seen on a level not too far from the eye of the spectator. There are two or three tiers (some of the upper ones as well at the height where they are!), which cover nearly all this vast space; and we will say, in conclusion, that there are among them not a few by our young and rising countrymen which will remind the connoisseur not only of the styles of Albert Durer and Holbein, but of Rubens, Raffaele, and Michael Angelo;—grand compositions, full of force and vigour, character and expression, and treated and handled in a manner worthy of the greatest masters of any age or country.

We are aware how unwise it is to raise expectation too high, but we do not fear any disappointment in this matter; and we cannot refrain from uttering a note or two of the sentiments of pleasure we have received from this successful and promising experiment.

BIOGRAPHY.

JOHN MURRAY, ESQ.

ON Tuesday morning, a few minutes past eight o'clock, this eminent publisher and bookseller breathed his last; having been in but indifferent health for several months, but only alarmingly ill from the Friday preceding. Mr. Murray would have been 65 if he had lived to November next. His situation in the literary world has long been most prominent; and there is hardly one author of high reputation, either now living or dead within the last quarter of a century, who has not enjoyed his intimacy and regard. With the majority his social intercourse was most gratifying, and his liberality towards their public undertakings such as merited their esteem and gratitude. It is too early a day to dilate upon even his good qualities. That he was warm-hearted and generous will be allowed by all who ever knew him; whilst those who had the pleasure of a more genial acquaintance with him, will long remember his lively conversation, and the ready humour which often set the table in a roar. He was, indeed, on such occasions a very agreeable companion, and his ready wit was only an indi-

cation of the acuteness and judgment which he carried into his professional concerns. His clear mind in this respect led him to enterprises of great pith and moment; and we owe to it some of the most celebrated works in our language. He originally began business about 40 years ago in Fleet Street, nearly opposite old St. Dunstan's giant-guarded clock, and then succeeded Mr. Miller in Albemarle street. Among his earliest literary connexions were D'Israeli and W. Gifford; and in later years, Scott, Southey, Moore, Byron, Barrow, Lockhart, nearly all our illustrious travellers, and authors in every branch of publication. He was a true friend to the arts, which he largely employed; and, in short, we may sum up this brief notice by saying, that in all the relations of society, few men will make a greater blank, or be more truly regretted, than John Murray. Mr. M. has left a widow, we are sorry to hear, in very indifferent health, daughters, and a son and successor, who, we hope, will emulate the friendly and liberal traits of his father's character.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

THE COCKNEY CATECHISM,

OR
LONDON ONE LIE!

LESSON XXV.

The good public effects produced by the Catechism! A little more about Tea-leaves and Tea. Sympathies for the Poor. The wonderful uses of the Potatoe in manufacturing Wines, Sugar, and Mustard. Sources of the prosperity of the Channel Islands.

Phi. The more I look back on the information I have received in only two dozen of Lessons, the more I am convinced of the truth—

Aunt M. Of which?

Phi. That, whatever we eat, or whatever we drink, "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof."

Aunt M. You rogue; you caught me napping; but before I have done you will know much more, not only in regard to eating and drinking, but also to clothing, exercising, medicating, seeing, breathing—in short, *every-thing-ing* in this world in which we live.

Pri. It cannot be cured, and must be endured.

Aunt M. It may be amended to a very great extent; and the consequences would be much greater freedom from disease, and the lengthening of many a life in health and comfort, instead of pain and misery and premature death.

Phi. Really you are as benevolent as Howard, and in your individual person as valuable as any institution for any humane object in existence.

Aunt M. All such institutions—and there are many of infinite charity amongst us—are of necessity limited to the benefit of particular classes. My object is to serve every class, and procure the good of the whole.

Pri. It seems to me, then, that a powerful Association to carry out your design would be a grand national establishment. You would be president, of course.

Aunt M. (laughing). Of course; but till that is done we will go on with our Lessons. You see here is another tea-sweeping fraud brought to light by the excise-officer.

Phi. Oh, the grocer who so politely removed the sugar-lumps from the tops of the tea-chests that the officer might have no impediment in examining them.

Aunt M. Yes, our Lessons do not seem to be lost on these functionaries. So, in this instance, the sugar was followed into the back parlour, and its accompanying packages of spurious tea were seized.

Pri. But what do the tea-totallers say to all this? Do they continue to drink the stuff?

Phi. Why, if they took to wine and spirits they would be no better off.

Aunt M. Troth, dear, it would be difficult to tell which is worst. But large quantities of tolerably genuine merchandise are brought to Great Britain, if we could only have it kept so. I observe a return of tea almost enough to satisfy the weak tastes and palates of the totallers, if they could get it to drink when hobnobbing with Father Mathew, or marching in processions to enjoy their harmless leafy beverage.

Phi. Their banners ought to be *Black and Green*.

Pri. Congou and Hyson.

Aunt M. Or all black: *Caper and Sorts*, with a border of *Imperial Green*. But here is the list for the eight months, from 1st July to 28th February, in 48 ships:—

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Black, Bohea | 250,322 lbs. |
| Congou | 18,569,194 " |
| Caper | 102,585 " |
| Souchong | 298,816 " |
| Hongmuyee | 159,545 " |
| Sorts | 38,517 " |
| Pekoe | 252,848 " |
| Orange Pekoe | 438,431 " |
| Total black | 30,110,288 lbs. |
| Green, Twankay | 1,137,889 lbs. |
| Hyson | 820,131 " |
| Hysonskin | 46,423 " |
| Young Hyson | 300,856 " |
| Gunpowder | 382,499 " |
| Imperial | 181,393 " |
| Total green | 2,869,191 lbs. |
| Total | 22,979,479 lbs. |

Pri. There is very little green in proportion to the whole quantity used. The greatest adulterations must be in that description.

Aunt M. A shrewd remark, and seemingly quite borne out by recent facts and discoveries. It is a circumstance to congratulate the country, and especially the capital, upon, that such steps for the protection of the poor and middle classes are becoming daily more active. The doing so punishes some delinquents, the fear and example will deter others, and the risk of detection induce a degree of caution, which, in many cases, will be nearly equal to prohibition.

Pri. We must rejoice in any thing which can add to the comforts of the poor.

Aunt M. Yes, truly, and especially at a period when Numbers (now nick-named the masses) are inflamed against Property, a dangerous condition of things for the tranquillity of a settled monarchical government. If you look to your Bible, you will observe that *The Book of Numbers is not the Book of Kings*.

Pri. My dear aunt, what would you have said if my brother had made such a pun?

Aunt M. Upon my word I cannot defend it; but the truth is I did not intend it.

Phi. Well, then, let it pass; for it is a clever saying, though not so touching as the fine one I read yesterday, also commiserating the poor: "*The dwellings of the poor (says the author) are but living tombs.*" Let us try to lighten and cheer them!

Aunt M. But now I will try back again, and tell you a curious bit or two about the wines manufactured in Guernsey and the other Channel islands.

Pri. I should like it of all things.

Aunt M. Immense quantities of these execrable wines* are imported from the Channel islands, and come in at a mere nominal duty, having a certificate that they are made from fruit, &c., the produce of the islands.

* No less than 300 pipes are lying at one of the bonded warehouses in Thames Street at the present moment.

Pri. I suppose they are much the same, as to quality, as what are called our home-made wines, such as gooseberry, currant, cowlip, and others?

Aunt M. Wines of this description are never manufactured into others. Foreign wine being admitted into these islands duty free, is so cheap that even the poorer classes can afford to consume it; therefore, as their home-made wines are required only for exportation, cheapness is the one object kept in view in their concoction.

Pri. How made?

Aunt M. Wines similar to those made from our common garden-fruits and sugar would be too expensive, besides not being suitable for mixing with port, sherry, &c., the only use to which these wines are put.

Pri. Perhaps you will oblige me by relating the process used in this wine-brewing.

Aunt M. The common basis for these wines is potatoe-flour, vast quantities of which are manufactured in Guernsey and Jersey, and put to many "ingenious" purposes by the "knowing" islanders.* A ton of potatoe-flour, with a large quantity of water, is boiled by steam, with a carboy of sulphuric acid (about 170 lbs.), till the starch is entirely dissolved, which takes place after about six hours' continued boiling. The liquor is then put into a large vat, into which chalk is thrown until the acid is neutralised, which is ascertained by testing it with litmus-paper. The liquor is then left for the chalk to subside, and when bright is drawn off and boiled up in steam-pans, being filtered through beds of animal charcoal, to remove impurities and to give it a fine bright gold colour. The process is considered complete when the syrup has been boiled down so as to stand at about twenty-eight to thirty degrees by Beaume's saccharometer. The syrup, thus prepared, possesses considerable sweetness, with a peculiar bitter flavour, which, however, is not unpleasant. This syrup is reduced and then fermented; the fermentation is stopped at the proper point by the addition of potatoe or mangel-wurzel spirit; and, being flavoured and coloured as occasion may require, shipped at extraordinary low prices to this country, and is found to answer for adulterating foreign wines of every description. By a different process this potatoe-syrup can be converted into an inferior sugar: every ton of potatoe-flour yielding about 14 cwt. of sugar, besides a certain proportion of sweets in the form of molasses. A large factory is now employed, at a place mentioned to me, in making this sugar, paying upon it the same duty as charged upon British plantation-sugar (25s. per cwt.), and is believed to be a profitable concern. Sago is found to answer for this purpose as well as the potatoe-flour, and has the advantage of being considerably cheaper, being only 13s. per ton, while the flour cannot be purchased under 16s. to 17s. per ton.

THE DRAMA.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, so highly approved in Paris, was produced on Thursday, for the first time in this country, and met with a deserved warm reception. The whole of the opera, three short

* A white flour called "dextrin," and which is soluble in water, is manufactured from the potatoe-starch, which is much used for adulterating sugar. It improves the colour of brown sugars, besides considerably lowering the price, and is difficult of detection. If sugar suspected of containing dextrin is dissolved in spirits of wine, the foreign matter will be precipitated. The same powder coloured with turmeric is also largely used for adulterating mustard.

acts, is in the hands of Grisi, Lablache, Fornasari, and Mario, who played, sang, and supported each other admirably. The music is generally light and very agreeable, occasionally, however, breaking into strains of a more exalted character; of which latter the serenade sung by Mario, with a simple guitar-accompaniment, in the third act, and the delicious duet between him and Grisi, immediately following, were the best examples, and decidedly the sweetest compositions in the opera. The scheming duet between Grisi and Fornasari, practice and approval, &c., in the first act, was very cleverly sung and acted. Of this character also was the execution of the duet at the end of the second act between Lablache and Fornasari; it was in the highest degree humorous. The volume of the combined voices was magnificent. Lablache, besides being admirable in his singing, was excellent in his rich comic personation of the *Don*. Fornasari as the *Doctor* exhibited, with more repose, a just appreciation of his part, and an equal share of fun and dramatic capabilities. Grisi was very good, first in the assumed meekness of the widow, and next in the wilful, shrewish, and despotical bride, contending, scolding, and boxing. A more complete hurly-burly than is kept up after the contract-signing can scarcely be conceived. Mario is the lover, and of course to his share fall the softer portions of the music, which form a pleasing contrast, and come out in high relief. The absence of choruses, as in *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, allows the plot its full share of interest. *Ondine* followed, which almost every one stopped to see.

French Theatre.—As we anticipated, a brilliant and overflowing bumper was Mr. Mitchell's benefit on Wednesday; the house was filled with beauty and fashion—a patronage the more marked as Wednesday was a fête-day among the aristocracy, it being the anniversary of the accession of her Majesty, and also the nuptial day of a branch of the royal family. Mr. Mitchell did himself and his patrons justice in his selection of the entertainments; they were entirely novel, and consisted of *Le Colonel d'Autrefois*, a lively vaudeville, in which Mdlle. Prosper dressed and played the soldier, and exercised her troops and her lungs to great effect, and was rewarded by a call at the fall of the curtain. This was followed by a chansonnette by Levassor, a rural love-ditty, and reminding us of one of little Knight's country tales in the olden time. Then came the gem of the evening, Bouffé's *Cesar*, in *Le Chien du Châteaufort*. This character is that of an idiot—but not exactly such; we should rather say of a wandering intellect, gifted with sensibility, yet degenerating occasionally into childishness, and suffering from want of recollection. This is a perfect masterpiece, and defies description upon paper. It elicited at its conclusion an universal call for the accomplished artist, who was overwhelmed with reiterated rounds of applause. Another chansonnette of Levassor, called *Le Chanteur Choriste*, a very comic scene, was also similarly noticed. The whole evening's amusements terminated with *L'Abbé Galant*, in which a reverend gentleman becomes entangled in the mysteries and miseries of theatricals, and was rather too lengthy to be comfortable to so crammed an audience, who became anxious to retire. The admirable acting of Bouffé, however, induced many to remain. The other performers, male and female, vied with each other in their exertions to please, and received individually testimonies of public favour. Altogether the performances went off greatly to the satisfaction of all present,

Strand Theatre.—A most extraordinary performance has been exhibited here during the week, the actors Mr. Risley and his son, a youth of about six or seven years of age. The feats of strength, agility, and suppleness, are very curious and pleasing. The lad is like a cat: throw him in any way—and his father pitches him about like an India-rubber ball—he is sure to alight on his feet; and were his bones really composed of caoutchouc, he could not jump or twist himself about with more ease. He is graceful too, and his exploits seem play-work. To name one of them, as a specimen, the lad, standing on the soles of his father's feet, throws a sunnysset, and alights again on the parental pedestals!

ORIGINAL POETRY.

"T I N."

On Mr. R. Smith's Remarks upon an Old Coin found at Winchester, with the inscription of the letters "T I N."
—(Fide Transactions of the Numismatic Society.)

ABRAHAM, Smith, do you mane—
Faith, I think you are blameworthy.
Throwing snails in our eyes
With your antiques and larning,—

Do you mane to parade us
That you're such a gossamer,
As the mark not to know
Of a thirteen¹ or doubtless?

It is throwing your fun you are
At the quaint Numismatics;
Sure your brothers in lore
Know l'Argent mathematics?

By my troth, you're a queer one,
Either mesmeric or feigning.
If T I N you decipher,
And not ken the maning.

With Tincoutin and King Cornin
Don't be larry-comfoozling us;
Lave to Joey² or Jonathan³
The art of bamboozling us.

Why seek Caesar for cause—
Quote Atræbath for effect?
Ask any spualpeen,
Or finance architect.

Cease your queer botherations—
Ask Gully⁴ or Lint⁵—
Ar-ra-gul-necish⁶ they'll tell you,
Is the origin of T I N.

'Tis the ponies⁷ at Tatt's;
'Tis the law of the Halls;
'Tis the gelt of the Dutch;
'Tis the quol⁸ of the Gauls;

'Tis the cowries⁹ of Boors;
'Tis the tung-tseen¹⁰ of Chusan;
'Tis the £ of the ledgers;
'Tis old rod¹¹ of the Jews an.

Though its A.D.'s obscure,
'Tis a phenomenon flash;
'Tis libra solidi denarii—
In toto, 'tis cash.

¹ A shilling passed for thirteenthence before the union with Ireland. Hence it derived its name.

² The *Humorous sobriquet* dubbed by *pages des châteaux* to the ancient silver moneta.

³ The "Ark of human happiness, the model republic," to quote Sydney Smith, before the land of stripes and stars repudiated the money Sydney, among a host of others, advanced for their national welfare.

⁴ John Gully, Esq., ex-M.P., well versed in the uses and abuses of what quaint Thomas Carlyle terms "blood-begotten mammon," and would soon unravel for Mr. R. S. the mysterious T I N.

⁵ The Chinese commissioner that negotiated the ransom of Siccan silver, &c.

⁶ "Ar-ra-gul-necish," *ἄρρηκτος* Loughrea usage. *Anglicæ*, your money down on the nail.

⁷ "Ponies," in betting at Tattersall's, is the slang for 25s.

⁸ "Quoi," the slang at the Temple—the Monmouth Street of Paris—for ready money.

⁹ "Cowries," a small shell found at the Maldives, the small change in some parts of India and Africa: 5000 pass in Boors for 1l.

¹⁰ "Tung-tseen," the only legal circulating medium in China.

¹¹ To whip Christians: one side of the ancient Jewish coins bore the device of the golden pot of manna; on the other side, Aaron holding the blossoming rod.

NOTE bene, post scrip, or moral.

Should you still be in doubt,
And would further search out
T I N's parentage, uses, and purity,
Just fail, and then try
Uncle Balls¹² on the sly—
But mind you present good security.
If in Dutchland unkink
Lags your banker behind,
Vater Lombard¹³ this same can advance;
Or to mon ami le commissaire¹⁴
Offer jewels that's rare,
He'll transmute them to T I N in Belle France.
SHAUGH.¹⁵

VARIETIES.

The British Association at Cork.—We have received our programme for the approaching meeting, and with it a letter of assurance as to the continued exertions for making it a brilliant one, and the certainty of there being not the slightest political feeling, far less political confusion, to interrupt the harmony of the proceedings. On the contrary, men of all parties are equally alive and active in promoting the cause, from which they anticipate both local and national benefit. We are the more desirous to state this, because the fear of the contrary, expressed in our last *Gazette* but one, seems to have excited considerable alarm both in England and Ireland. Hearing the sentiment on every hand, we thought it best to give it public voice; and we rejoice to learn from headquarters that there is no cause for doubting a numerous and distinguished attendance, and a cordial and gratifying reception. They laugh in Ireland at the idea of agitation reaching this scientific parliament; and we may, from what has come under our own observation, safely tell our friends on this side of the Channel that they need look for nothing in Cork but an agreeable week and several delightful excursions.

Agricultural Painting.—A picture of very great merit has been on private view during the week at the Picture Gallery in Maddox Street. It is painted by Mr. Ansell, of Birmingham, and represents a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, including a multitude of capital portraits. But the most striking merit of this young artist is his animal-painting, which is really of a very high order, together with the likenesses of so many distinguished individuals, and the able grouping and management of the whole field. The production is more than clever: it is remarkable.

Shakspeare Autographs!!—High prices generally bring supplies into the market; and we hear of another autograph of Shakspeare, which has just been discovered in a copy of Holmshed by a Mr. Powell. It is asserted to be genuine and authentic; and we know of nothing to the contrary, but only that we shall not be surprised if a few more specimens should turn up. About the time when Ireland bamboozled the learned, a number of other dramatic forgeries were perpetrated; and it

¹² 13 14 "Uncle Balls," the pawnbrokers of London.
"Vater Lombard, the Gelt Lent vant haus," or pawnbrokers of Germany; "Mon ami le commissaire" of the bureaux of the Society of the Mont Piété in France; also the slang terms in each country of *uncle father*, and *friend*.

¹⁵ I have explored all the piles of learned lore from Paddy Columba to Pierce Egan; and, by permission of the worthy Editor of the *Quarterly*, the *Assays* of T I N, waded through the mts. in the Archives of the Duchy of Cornwall, but failed in ascertaining the exact date; yet I have no doubt the term originated among the flash tribe of *Mocers* in confirmation of which I beg to refer to J. Akerman's work on the Coins of the earliest periods, wherein he gives a facsimile of a small coin of the time, and with the profile of Clodius Macer. However, Mr. Joseph Banks, of the Hare and Hounds, Buckridge Street, Bloomsbury can satisfy any sceptical Numismatic on the point.

would not be strange if Shakespeare signatures of that period should continue to appear, and be presumed to be original. If not, they are still worth forging by ingenious craftsmen.

Colburn v. Whiting, publisher of Atlas.—Forty shillings damages for angry criticism; besides the consequent withdrawal of advertisements (the pabulum of newspapers). Thus *Atlas* has not only got the world upon his shoulders, but also Mr. Colburn.

The Dentorium.—An institution under this name has been established for the purpose of affording relief at an economical rate to individuals suffering under affections of the teeth and mouth. It is said that some extraordinary discoveries, which have lately been made in the fabrication of artificial teeth, will here be developed; and that those useful aids, which have hitherto been confined to the rich, will thus be placed within the reach of almost the poorest in the community.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

In the Press.—The sixth volume of Miss Strickland's *Lives of the Queens of England*. The subject of this volume is Queen Elizabeth.—*Travels in Upper India* from Bareilly in Rohilkund; with a Sporting Excursion in the Kingdom of Oude, by Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Davidson, late Bengal Engineers.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

The Book of British Ballads, edited by S. C. Hall, small 4to, 2s. cloth.—Some Account of the African Remittent Fever in the Niger, by W. Pritchett, M.D., 8vo, 7s. 6d.—Rev. W. Jay's Works, Vol. VII. Sermons, post 8vo, 7s. 6d.—The Choral Service of the Church, by the Rev. J. Jebb, 8vo, 16s.—Female Missionaries in India, by Mrs. Webb, 18mo, 2s.—South Indian Missionary Sketches, Part II. Tennevely, &c., 12mo, 4s.—Reminiscences of Syria, by Lieut.-Colonel Napier, 2 vols. post 8vo, 21s.—The Poles in the Seventeenth Century, by Count H. Krasinski, 3 vols. post 8vo, 11. 11s. 6d.—Nelsonian Reminiscences: Leaves from Memory's Log, by Lieut. G. S. Parsons, post 8vo, 10s. 6d.—A Course of Sermons, by the Rev. T. Knowles, 12mo, 4s. 6d.—Journey from Herat to Khiva, by Capt. J. Abbott, 8vo, 2s. 6d.—Tables for Calculating Profits, by J. Haig, post 8vo, 12mo, 5s.—The Works of Beaumont and Fletcher, edited by the Rev. A. Dyce (11 vols.), 8vo, 1. 11. and 111. 12s. each.—The Culture of the Grape-Vine in Australia, by George Suttor, p. 8vo, 6s.—Suggestions for the Improvement of our Towns and Houses, by J. T. Maslen, 8vo, 7s.—The Rector's Note-Book, by Mr. K. Stanford, 12mo, 4s. 6d.—Parochial Sermons, by the Rev. J. Garbett, 8vo, 12s.—Aytton Priory, by the Rev. J. M. Neale, post 8vo, 4s.—Morton on the Nature and Properties of Soils, 4th edition, 8vo, 10s.—Code of Chancery Practice, by T. Kennedy, 12mo, 12s.—Letters of Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann, Vols. I. and II., 8vo, 28s.—The Circassian Chief, by W. H. G. Kingston, 3 vols. post 8vo, 11. 11s. 6d.—Tales of the Town, by H. V. Bellairs, 12mo, 5s.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1843.

| June. | Thermometer. | Barometer. |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Thursday .. 22 | From 51 to 72 | 29.99 stationary. |
| Friday .. 23 | " 45 .. 69 | 30.00 to 29.99 |
| Saturday .. 24 | " 48 .. 67 | 29.98 .. 29.94 |
| Sunday .. 25 | " 49 .. 64 | 29.90 .. 29.85 |
| Monday .. 26 | " 45 .. 69 | 29.93 .. 29.87 |
| Tuesday .. 27 | " 44 .. 75 | 29.85 .. 29.66 |
| Wednesday 28 | " 45 .. 62 | 29.61 .. 29.65 |

Wind N. and N.E., except on the 27th, when it was S.W. Generally clear.

Edmonton.

CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

This table shews the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.

| 1843. | h. m. s. | 1843. | h. m. s. |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| July 1 .. | 12 3 21.8 | July 5 .. | 12 4 6.6 |
| 2 .. | 3 33.5 | 6 .. | 4 17.0 |
| 3 .. | 3 44.8 | 7 .. | 4 27.0 |
| 4 .. | 3 55.9 | | |

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Legh retracts his charge against a young engineer, mentioned in our last number but one, of pilating his anti-friction pump.

L. D. L. would not have written as he has done in "Love," had he allowed a few more years to teach him better.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WILSON'S SCOTTISH ENTERTAINMENTS, at the MUSIC HALL, Store Street.—On Monday Evening, July 3, at Eight o'Clock, Mr. WILSON will give ANOTHER NIGHT OF BURNS, Finlayson, Mr. Land.—Introduction: Burns' Epistle to his Friend, John Lapraik; Letter to George Thomson, objecting to his proposed Amendments in a Song. Songs: Here we are, there we are, Wandering Willie—O whistle and I'll come to ye, my lad—Mary Morison—Last May a braw wooer cam down the lang-plen—O this is no my ain lassie—Green grow the rushes O, Part II. There was a lass, and she was fair—My tocher's the jewel—O poortit call—The battle o' Sherramuir—Wilt thou be my dearie?—Husband, husband, cease your strife—Here comes the angle blairn. Mr. Wilson will recite the Poem of "Tam o' Shanter."

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| Age. | For One Year. | For Seven Years. | Whole Term. |
|------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 20 | 40 17 8 | 40 19 1 | 41 11 10 |
| 30 | 1 1 8 | 1 2 7 | 2 0 7 |
| 40 | 1 5 0 | 1 6 9 | 2 14 10 |
| 50 | 1 19 1 | 1 19 10 | 4 0 11 |
| 60 | 3 2 4 | 3 17 0 | 6 0 10 |

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| Age. | First 3 Years. | Second 3 Years. | Third 3 Years. | Fourth 3 Years. | Remainder of Life. |
|------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 25 | £1 2 7 | £1 9 9 | £1 10 11 | £2 4 1 | £3 11 3 |
| 30 | 1 9 7 | 1 10 6 | 2 9 3 | 2 19 0 | 3 9 9 |
| 35 | 2 1 0 | 2 14 10 | 3 8 8 | 4 2 6 | 4 16 4 |
| 40 | 3 11 1 | 4 10 9 | 5 10 5 | 6 10 1 | 7 9 9 |
| 50 | 4 8 11 | 5 17 4 | 7 5 9 | 8 14 2 | 10 2 7 |

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| Entry. | Policy No. | Age. | Sum. | Annual Premium. | Bonus added. | Cash Bonus. | Prem. reduced. |
|--------|------------|------|-------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1857 | 39 | 59 | 1,000 | £ s. d. 67 8 4 | £ s. d. 124 14 6 | £ s. d. 38 19 9 | £ s. d. 19 4 |
| 1838 | 114 | 56 | 3,000 | 175 15 0 | 296 9 7 | 123 0 6 | 16 5 7 |

Policies now entered upon entitled to participation in next Annual Division. Two-thirds of all Premiums paid can be borrowed by the assured without loss of Policy.

F. FERGUSON CAMROUX, Secretary.

To the Proprietors of East India Stock.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

HAVING returned from India after a course of service in the Bengal Presidency of thirty-four years, which terminated in the Council of India, I am induced to offer myself as a CANDIDATE for a SEAT in the COURT OF DIRECTORS for the AFFAIRS of the EAST INDIA COMPANY. I make this early announcement in order that my pretensions may be generally known; and shall most fully submit my claims and pretensions when personally soliciting your suffrages and support.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

H. T. PRINSEP.

London, June 15th, 1845.

R. HENDRIE,

Perfumer to Her Majesty, 12 Tichborne Street, London.

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A variety of highly perfumed Soap Tablets, Sand Balls, &c., prepared without angular corners.

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HENDRIE'S MORRISINE is the most beneficial extract of elegant substances for maintaining the beauty and luxuriance of the Hair, having also a delightful perfume.

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IMPROVED SCOURING DROPS, for removing greasy spots from silk, and MARKING LIQUID, for Linen, to be used without preparation, 1s. a bottle.

LITERATURE AND ART.

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—The Gallery is open daily from Ten in the Morning until Six in the Evening, with one Room containing the Works of Sir JEREMY BENTHAM; the next of ANCIENT MASTERS; and the third with DECEASED BRITISH ARTISTS.

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Admission (from Eight o'Clock till Seven), one Shilling; Catalogue, one Shilling.

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Will shortly Close.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN

WATER COLOURS.—THE NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society is now open at their GALLERY, FIFTH-FLOOR PAINTERS, next the British Institution, from Nine o'Clock till Dark.

Admittance, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

University of London.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the following

CLASSICAL SUBJECTS have been selected for Examination in this University, viz.

For the MATRICULATION EXAMINATION in 1844.

HOMER—*Iliad*, Book XIII.

SALUSTIUS—*The War with Jugurtha*.

For the EXAMINATION for the DEGREE of BACHELOR of ARTS in 1845.

SOPOCRATES—*Œdipus Coloneus*.

TACITUS—*Agriicola*, Germania, and the Fifth Book of the *Historia*.

By order of the Senate,

R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

Somerset House, June 21st, 1845.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS, at their Gallery, Pall Mall East, WILL CLOSE on Saturday, July 15.

Open each day from Nine till Dusk.

Admittance, One Shilling; Catalogue, Sixpence.

R. HILLS, Secretary.

EXHIBITION OF SIR GEORGE HAYTER'S GREAT PICTURE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, painted on 170 square feet of canvas, and containing Portraits of all the Members of Parliament; also a Portrait of her Majesty Queen Victoria; and various other Works, forming a collection of more than 800 Portraits of eminent Personages of the present day. Open from Ten till Dusk. At the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. Admission, One Shilling.

BOOKS IN THE PRESS.

8 New Burlington Street, July 1, 1843.

Mr. BENTLEY will immediately Publish the following New Works:—

I.

Two vols. 8vo, with Portraits.

CONCLUDING VOLUMES OF

GEORGE SELWYN and his CONTEMPORARIES; with Memoirs and Notes. By J. HENRAGE JAMES, Esq., Author of "Memoirs of the Court of England under the Stuarts," and "The Court of England under the Houses of Nassau and Hanover."

New Work by the Author of "The Clockmaker," &c.

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SAM SLICK IN ENGLAND; or, the Atrocities. By the Author of "The Clockmaker; or, Sayings and Doings of Sam Slick of Slickville."

III.

In 1 vol. 8vo, with Map.

DISCOVERIES ON THE NORTH COAST OF AMERICA. Effected by the Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company during the years 1836-39. By THOMAS SIMPSON, Esq.

IV.

In 4 vols. post 8vo,

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A Novel.

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"There is continual spring and harvest there."

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